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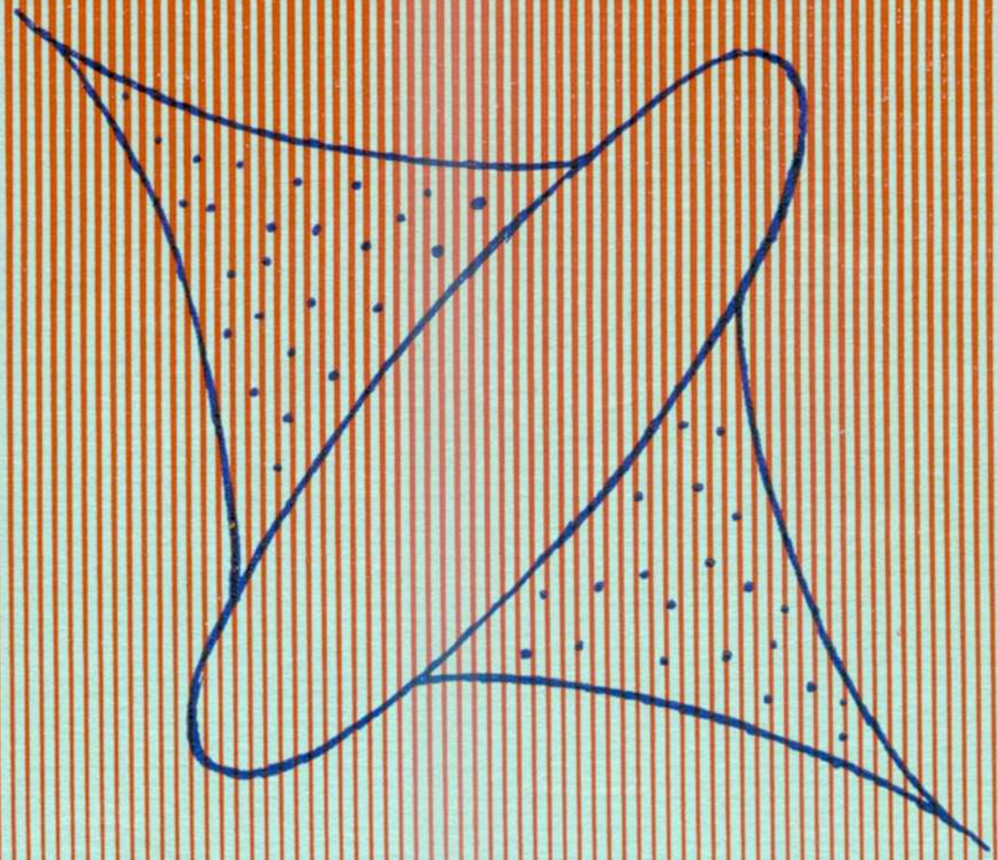

LENS FLARE OR UFO?

The bi-monthly
Journal of
SPACE

Edited by
Waveney Girvan

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol 10 No. 5 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

1964

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1964
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Round-Up

ONE of the most exasperating experiences for the UFO student is to be asked what has happened to the flying saucers lately. "The papers used to be full of them, but you don't hear anything about them now", is a frequently heard remark. The Editor of the *Kensington News*, who earlier this year printed a series of articles about the Air Ministry and the saucers, was asked by several readers why he had returned to a subject that once agitated the curiosity of the public but had now been relegated to the level of a newspaper stunt of the day before yesterday. While it is realised that this is an inevitable result of the brainwashing to which the public has been subjected for many years, it is irritating to keep hearing this comment. A well known scientific figure, in a private conversation with one of our readers, when asked for his opinion replied: "There was a lot of talk some years ago about saucers but they were explained as natural phenomena."

A careful study of a subject has never been regarded as a necessary prerequisite to the voicing of an opinion, but we do think we can say that few subjects have suffered so much as ours. Dr. Menzel is the exception that points the rule: otherwise the sceptic nearly always talks nonsense because he is unaware of the facts and one of the facts he is unaware of is that the saucers, whatever they are, are always being reported in varying degrees of intensity from all over the world. That the sceptic does not happen to have read these reports does not, of course, mean that they have not been made: if national newspapers, for reasons of their own, tend to ignore happenings reported in the local papers, this does not turn the event into a non-happening. Events occur independently of newspapers. It is suprising how many people reason the other way round.

These remarks have been prompted by an editorial comment in the Carlisle *Cumberland News* of June 12. Here it is: "Stories of flying saucers and other phenomena have had their hey-day: strangely enough, they seemed to go out of fashion at about the time science fiction and television drama really reduced such things to a fireside commonplace. Whether this means that the few present-day equivalents of flying saucer stories which do survive are regarded with more or less credulity, is debatable, if only for their scarcity value: what is certain is that, if only for their relative scarcity value, they are eminently readable, and they are still considered with that degree of respect which even sceptics have to afford to the unknown."

This statement, though not unfair in some respects to the flying saucers, is nonsense and it is nonsensical precisely because it is not based on facts. On any other subject but ours, a writer would have been more

cautious before he commited himself to such rubbish, but not our Cumbrian friend. "Stories of flying saucers have had their hey-day" he states and then compounds his ignorance by giving an equally false reason for what is essentially untrue. Science fiction has not ousted truth: the astonishing truth has led to the decline of the space fiction novel (which reached its hey-day in the 1950s) and the television dramas have survived very largely because many of them are based not upon fiction but upon the truth. The writer in the *Cumberland News* is, in fact, standing either the truth or himself on his head and, as a consequence, is talking through his hat.

The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is in a position to refute the idea that flying saucer stories have dried up. Indeed, of recent months they have increased and increased considerably. For nearly ten years we have compiled a list of sightings culled from all over the world. A very large majority is taken from all types of newspapers. In addition to our World Round Up feature, the more sensational stories are dealt with in separate articles. While it is true that our World Round Up feature varies in size from issue to issue, we have never been short of material: even in what appears to be a slack period, our feature has always run to several pages. On other occasions we have had to be selective because of the pressure on our space and we would like to assure the *Cumberland News* and others equally uninformed that we do not invent these reports. The curious are able to confirm that we took this or that sighting from a particular newspaper on a particular date. Wherever possible we check on the event if it is of a sensational nature. In our experience, which must be regarded with greater respect than that of the writer in the *Cumberland News* if only because he bases himself upon opinion and not upon facts, stories of flying saucers are now much more frequent and widely spread than they were during what he has called their "hey-day." Reference to the World Round Up feature to be found elsewhere in this issue will show it to be of record proportions. Indeed, the problem was to find room to print as many as possible of the excellent reports that we were receiving from all over the globe.

We do not ask our critics to believe everything they read. What we do ask them to do is to become acquainted with the truth. If they would only do this their scepticism would, at least, be reasonable. Conviction, of course, is a personal and another matter. The *Cumberland News* is not too sceptical. It had an open mind, but has allowed it to become half closed because it was unaware of recent developments. It is up to all students of flying saucers to write to these newspapers which allow the impression to spread that the saucers have in any way disappeared or have been buried by the ignorant sceptic. A study of the nearly sixty World Round Up features we have published since this REVIEW was launched and particularly the current one which ranges from Felling to Fiji will kill the canard that saucers are no longer flying (and occasionally landing). A study of these reports in their totality may also cause the sceptic or the uninformed to consider whether these hundreds of witnesses can *all* have been liars or fools or, as some have tried to suggest, suffering from a mental disease for which there is apparently neither cause nor cure.

OUR NEW ADDRESS

Kindly note that our new address is as under:

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Would periodicals on our exchange list please make a careful note of these particulars?

SPINDLE IN THE SKY

TRICK OF LIGHT
OR
UFO MANIFESTATION?

Coningsby, Lincolnshire. 6 p.m. December 12, 1963

IN its issue for the week ending June 13 *Today* magazine reproduced a photograph taken by Peter Bolton, *TV Times* photographer, of a Vulcan bomber ready for action at Conningsby RAF station. The time was 6 p.m. on December 12, 1963. At the bottom right-hand corner, it will be seen, is a floodlight. At the top right-hand corner is the "shape". Photographic experts declare that it is a reflection in the lens caused by the floodlight. On the other hand, the photographer was not so certain in view of the fact that his camera is one of the most elaborate available and was "hooded" to prevent any light interference.

Peter Bolton took two photographs in which this "shape" appeared. The mysterious object in one of them is noticeably smaller than in the other, suggesting that it is moving away from the Vulcan bomber. The sceptic will probably try to explain this fact by suggesting that the floodlight alleged to be the cause of the "shape" has been moved in relation to the Vulcan Bomber. There is, however, no evidence to support this. All objects in both photographs appear to be in exactly the same relationship.

When *Today* was published a large number of readers wrote and telephoned the paper to draw its attention to a Pathé newsfilm, then being publicly shown, of the launching of the Bluestreak missile at Woomera, Australia at 9.14 a.m. on June 5. At the left-hand side of the picture another and similar "shape" appeared. The film was in colour and at a private showing the picture was extraordinarily vivid: the reproduction we carry, in black and white, gives only a poor impression of what was to be seen. On the right hand of the rocket as it was leaving its pad, there appeared what could have been the sun, but that has not yet been confirmed. Underneath the "sun" is a circular object by no means as clearly defined as the other objects in the film. Once again, the arguments run that it is "a trick of light" while the photographers point out that the film camera was "hooded" to prevent such accidents.

The Official Explanation

The Air Ministry, of course, prefers the "trick of light" explanation. It is tempting, therefore, to take this to mean that it must have been a UFO. However, it is possible that occasionally the Air Ministry tells the truth, so it is as well to examine all the available evidence we have on this phenomenon.

Perhaps the first photograph to appear was the frontispiece to Harold T. Wilkins's *Flying Saucers on the Moon* (*Flying Saucers on the Attack* in the U.S.A.) first published in 1954. It shows a number of these "shapes" apparently flying above the Armco Steel Corporation's blast furnaces at Hamilton, Ohio, U.S.A. The information we have unfortunately does not tell us whether the cameraman, Mr. B. Ruoff, actually saw the objects or whether they merely appeared on his negative. The picture was taken at night in 1950. Certainly there was sufficient light from the furnaces to have caused reflections, but we do not at the moment know why reflections should cause this particular shape to appear. Dr. Menzel in his book *The World of Flying Saucers* reproduces this photograph and, as one would expect, summarily accepts the "trick of light" explanation. He declares that the images were caused by a defective lens.

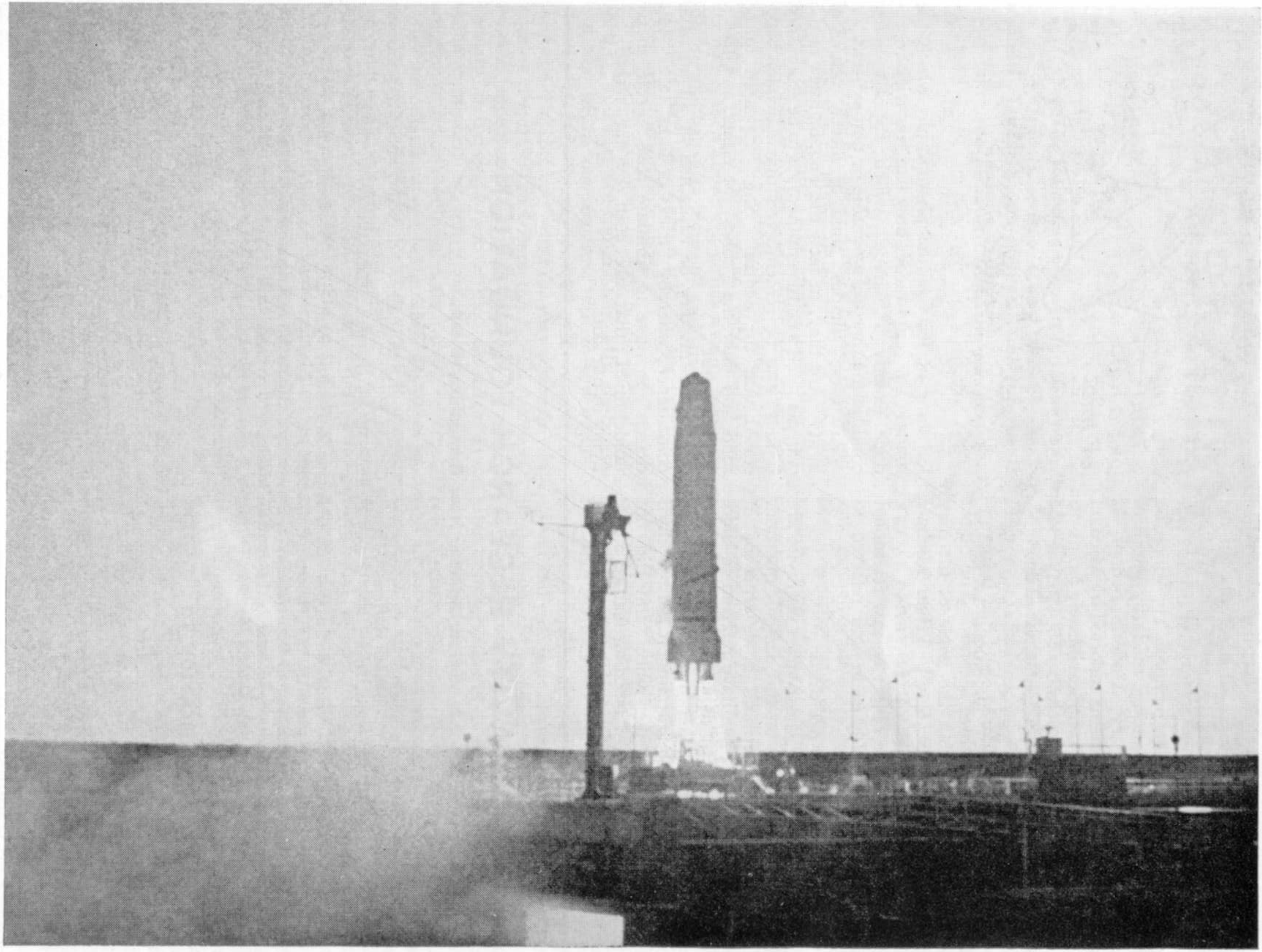
The next appearance of the "shape" was in Cyprus. A full account will be found in the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, January-February, 1958, issue. The photograph was taken on September 29, 1957, by a Corporal P. Stokes. He was attempting to take pictures of forked lightning. The sky was cloudy and he was not always successful in timing his exposures. In one the sky appears quite dark, but the familiar "shape" nevertheless appears in the centre of the photograph as reproduced in the REVIEW. If the "shape" was caused by reflection from a bright light it is pertinent to ask where it was at the time. There is no sign of it in the photograph.

A Russian Photograph

The next step in the investigation is to turn to the March-April, 1961, issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. There will be found an account of yet another spindle shape, this time appearing in a photograph taken at night near Murmansk, Russia. The REVIEW reproduced a photostatic copy of a page from the January 8, 1961, issue of *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, which showed yet another of the "shapes" and devoted a considerable amount of space to showing how it could have been faked. This is a slight variation on the "trick of light" explanation and suggests that the photographer, for reasons of his own, had used this trick of light for a nefarious purpose.

In the July-August, 1962, issue of the REVIEW, Antonio Ribera returned to this subject and we reproduced a photograph taken by Salvat Llaurado on a beach near Barcelona. This photograph was taken on August 27, 1959, at about mid-day. Here is the "shape" again, but before the sceptic can rely on the lens defect explanation he should be reminded that the photographer actually saw the object flying and, indeed, that is why, he claims, he took the picture. If Llaurado is to be believed, then the camera cannot on this occasion have been "tricked" by something that was also visible to the naked eye.

Finally, we come to another visual sighting of the

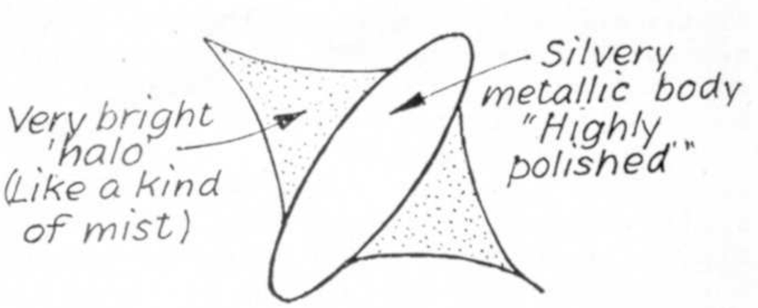


Woomera, Australia. 9.14 a.m. June 5, 1964. A still from a Pathe Newsfilm

"shape" with no camera at all involved. In the January-February, 1964, issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Peter J. Kelly contributed an article "Saucers over Southampton" in which he recounted a series of sightings made by pupils of the Testwood Secondary Modern School at Totton. One of the incidents reported by Michael Blake was as follows: "At approximately 5 p.m. on the evening of Sunday, September 15, 1963, he saw an object in the sky which he sketched. The object was travelling towards Southampton at a 'terrific' speed, so fast, in fact, that Michael had it in view for only about two or three seconds. The object seemed at about 45°, but the angle of tilt may well have been more or less." When Michael Blake was shown copies of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW he said that the object he saw resembled that taken by Salvat Llaurado and referred to above.

Expert opinions

Photographic experts whose views we invite are asked for their opinions on this difficult question. What must be borne in mind, however, is that in one of the photographs we have referred to there was apparently no light to cause the trick. In another, the photographer swears he saw the object as well as photographing it. In a third case, the witness saw the object and did not photograph it. The most puzzling feature of the case is that, granted the "trick of light" explanation



Reproduction based on Michael Blake's original sketch.

for some at least of the photographs which the REVIEW has reproduced, how can this trick reproduce exactly a "shape" which appears under conditions either unfavourable or non-existent.

Are these "shapes" solid or merely beams of light? Are they, in fact, the Foo Fighters of the war years? If a consistent theory is to be established it must also be remembered that Michael Blake stated that the central "ring" appeared to be solid and only the "cones" at either end like a "kind of mist."

Can the mystery be explained as an amazing coincidence, whereby "tricks of light" and "lens defects" manage to simulate real objects, so far unidentified, that are seen by the naked eye flying in our skies?

GRAVITY RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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The Trustees are pleased to announce the Awards for Essays for 1964:

1. $1000.00—Negative Mass as a Gravitational Source of Energy in the Quasi-Stellar Radio Sources by Prof. Banesh Hoffmann, Queens College, Flushing, New York.
2. $300.00—Quantum Theory and Gravity by Prof. Ryoyo Utiyama, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan.
3. $200.00—The Nature of Sources of a Gravitational Field by Prof. Ezra T. Newman, Physics Department, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.
4. $150.00—Detection of Non-Newtonian Gravitational Effects With Quantum Fluids by Robert L. Forward, Hughes Research Laboratories, Malibu, Cal.
5. $100.00—A New Gravity Meter by Dr. Henry P. Kalmus, United States Army Material Command, Washington, D.C.

HONORABLE MENTION TO

Otto Bergmann, Carl H. Brans, Harvey E. Fiala, Leopold Halpern and Bertel Laurent, A. L. Harvey, Kurt W. Just, F. W. Kantor, R. M. Kiehn, M. A. Melvin, P. J. Peebles, Philip C. Peters, I. W. Roxburgh, Joseph H. Rush, Mendel Sachs, and Erik A. Wilkeonson.

Reprints of the First Award Essay for 1964—25 cents. Others may be borrowed for one week. Collection of First Award Essays since 1949 $1.00. Abstracts of Selected Essays (31) for 1964 including above 25 cents.

A BRAZILIAN MYSTERY

The following account is taken from the A.P.R.O. BULLETIN **for January, 1964, published from 4145 E.Desert Place, Tucson, Arizona U.S.A. and is reprinted by permission. The** *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW's* **latest information is that because of the difficult conditions the search has had to be abandoned.**

ON October 31, 1963, Rute de Souza, 8-year-old daughter of Elidia de Souza who live near Iguape, Brazil, heard a strange and increasing roar and on looking to see where it came from, was terrified to observe a silvery object coming toward the river near her house. The object soared over her house, then above her, struck a palm tree near the top and began to "writhe" and struggle in the air above the river. Then it fell into the Peropava River near the opposite shore.

Rute began to run to her house to tell her Mother, and met her coming out. Mrs. de Souza had also heard the roar and ran to investigate. Shortly Raul de Souza, Rute's uncle, came upon the scene. He, too, had heard the roar where he was working about 300 feet from the house. All three stood in amazement as they watched the water "boil up" in the spot where the disc had fallen. The water continued to surge up, followed by an eruption of muddy water and then mud.

On the opposite shore of the river fishermen including Japanese Tetsuo Ioshigawa had witnessed the event and it was from Ioshigawa that investigators and reporters obtained sufficient description that led to the estimation of size of the object—about 25 feet in diameter. All described the disc as like a "wash basin". The object appeared to be at about 20 feet altitude when it hit the tree. It was in level flight until that time and after it struck it began its gyrations which led to the conclusion of the witnesses that it was experiencing trouble of some sort.

During the ensuing weeks, divers of various sorts began to attempt a salvage operation. At first, divers using only face masks tried but failed, to be followed by Scuba divers and eventually a professional deep sea diver with full diving suit and air compressor came to attempt to locate the disc. At last report, nothing had been found and all the divers complained of the hampering effect of the mud at the bottom of the river. The Preopava is 12 feet deep at the point where the disc sank and has a muddy bottom comprised of about 15 feet of mud and clay. If the disc sank through the water and in turn the mud as the boiling up of water and then mud seem to indicate, it may have proceeded through the muddy river bed to solid rock underneath.

In order to fully assess the meaning of this incident which is pretty well established sa having occurred, we must take into consideration all the factors. Although mine detectors were used and the Brazilian equivalent of the Civil Engineers attempted finding and salvaging the disc, reports do not indicate any success of any kind, not even the location of the disc.

We must consider the possibility that the disc, after settling to the bottom, either proceeded through locomotion of some sort away from its initial resting place and is not now in the original spot. If so, it could be anywhere in that river. Also, the size indicates that it may have been manned and if so perhaps repairs could be affected under water and escape from the river and the mud accomplished during the night hours, at some spot more isolated than where it originally sank.

UFOs of various types have been seen going into and coming out of the water so we must not assume that this particular disc is necessarily trapped even though it is a tempting assumption to make. Time will tell and it may be that the disc will be pulled out of the river eventually. It may be, too, that other UFOs have already come to the disc's aid and have either destroyed or salvaged it.

The only similar incident is the one which took place off the coast of Venezuela on December 13, 1956. A Swedish ship wired the harbour control at La Guaira saying that a strange, cone-shaped object was falling vertically into the sea, that it was

(continued on page 24)

Life on Other Planets

The Latest Clues

ONE of the most persistent (and one of the most illogical) objections to the inter-planetary flying saucer has been that intelligent human life is restricted to this earth. Of recent years, this objection was amended and intelligent life was allowed outside our solar system, but our sister planets, it was asserted, could not support human beings. As has been pointed out time and time again in this REVIEW, the first step is to prove the existence of the flying saucers in our atmosphere: where they come from is the next stage of enquiry, not the first. Furthermore, the objection that the saucers could not travel to us from outside the solar system is merely to state that *we* could not manage such distances at our present stage of development. Others could well have mastered space problems which to us appear to be insurmountable.

Revised opinions

What now needs challenging, however, is the statement made by Dr. Menzel and others that our sister planets cannot support intelligent life. In his latest book, *The World of Flying Saucers*, he claims that astronomers will not allow that conditions on these planets are unfavourable to this type of life. Dr. Menzel does not seem to have realised that some astronomers, at least, are beginning to revise their opinions and the following quotations taken from newspapers of recent date indicate a remarkable change of wind.

The first quotation comes from the *Deseret News and Telegram* of May 1, 1954:

"Man is not alone in the universe. If we make an effort, we can contact other life, Dr. Bernard M. Oliver, vice president in charge of research and development at the Hewlett-Packard Co., said Thursday night.

"Man now has the capability to contact life on other planets, he said.

"Addressing members of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) attending the annual regional conference in Hotel Utah, Dr. Oliver advanced the theory that life abounds in the universe.

"He offered the belief that life is common in the universe and the density of life is such that there are no doubt several populations within the present radio range.

"He said there have been no contacts with life on other worlds of any significance, because no real concerted effort has been made to to so. Such a contact would have as profound an impact on our world culture as did the voyage of Columbus on the culture of the Old World, Dr. Oliver said.

"With our present sending and receiving equipment, our chances of contacting other intelligent civilizations are really quite high, Dr. Oliver said. The cost of such a programme would be negligible compared with the impact it would have, he said.

"Dr. Oliver was the featured speaker at the banquet session of the three-day conference of the IEEE. He is a former vice president of the institute."

Messages from Outer Space

In the London *Daily Express* of May 26 reported yet another instance of a message being received from outer space: "American space scientists are baffled still by galactic signals received by the British space satellite Ariel. Last week at a special viewing of latest international space ventures a scientist of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration told me: 'The Ariel recordings have been carefully analysed. None of our satellites has been able to pick up similar signals. And we regard the Ariel recordings still as possible evidence of an intelligence in outer space.' He said the signals could be an echo of earth signals. But this seemed unlikely."

Are they galactic?

The scientist quoted above suggested that the source of these signals might be galactic. But why not from somewhere nearer? Even this possibility is no longer considered impossible by all astronomers as the following report taken from the South African (Queenstown) *Daily Representative* of May 9 suggests.

" 'Definitive' proof of water vapour in the upper atmosphere of Venus has been announced by the Baltimore, U.S.A., Johns Hopkins University. For the first time, highly accurate measurements of the amount of water vapour around the planet were also reported.

"The new findings, which should end scientific controversy over whether the Venus atmosphere is

dry, are the result of a recent daytime unmanned balloon flight to study Venus by means of a unique robot telescope system.

"The study was directed by Dr. John Strong, director of the Hopkins astrophysics laboratory. He first discovered evidence of water vapour in the Venus upper atmosphere as the result of a manned balloon flight in 1959.

"The 1959 measurements were highly inaccurate, according to Dr. Strong, with a possible error of about 80 per cent. As a result of the new flight, the amount of water vapour above the clouds which encircle Venus has now been established to within 5 per cent.

"The quantity of water vapour found, Dr. Strong reported, 'compares with the upper atmosphere surrounding the earth.'

"'Since it is known that carbon dioxide exists on Venus', the astronomer said, 'proof of water vapour forces us to re-examine every previous calculation made concerning the possibility of some sort of life existing on the planet.'

"Dr. Strong also said the new data suggests that the clouds seen around Venus may possibly be composed of water, not dust, as many astronomers believe.

"Future flights are being planned by Hopkins scientists to study these clouds.

"It has not been possible to detect water with certainty from earthbound observations because of the damp lower layer of the earth's atmosphere.

"In the Hopkins balloon flight, the telescope was carried to an altitude of 87,500 feet, above most of the water vapour in the earth's atmosphere. A spectrometer measured the water vapour by its absorption of certain infra-red wave lengths in sunlight reflected by Venusian clouds.

"Dr. Strong estimated that the new techniques of unmanned day-time balloon astronomy, which he has pioneered, will be capable of providing about 25 per cent. more astronomical information than has been available before."

What now is truly astonishing is that views and news of the quality of those quoted above can still not be related by the pundits to the mass of evidence that has been accumulated over the years by flying saucer students. It can be due only to a prejudice that will not allow pronouncements once made to be revised or to a complete ignorance of the evidence. Dr. Menzel, however, cannot plead the latter excuse.

Sighting reports . . .

From England, Eire, the U.S.A.,
Australia, South Africa and Sweden

. . . in this issue

Spacemen in Saxon Times

by W. R. Drake

A.D.35 "*And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus and suddenly there shined around him a light from heaven.*" (*Acts, Chapter IX, Verse* 3.)

PAUL, breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, pursued the road to Damascus vowing to bring men and women, followers of the recently crucified Christ, bound unto Jerusalem. Suddenly this dramatic light from heaven transformed Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the Apostle, whose teachings promoted the Christian Church.

For nearly two thousand years theologians have deemed this light to be a spiritual illumination, a catharsis, awakening the soul, making the sinner reborn into a saint. Believing our earth the unique abode of life in God's Creation devout Christians throughout the centuries interpreted in poetic terms the light from heaven as a divine inspiration regenerating the new Paul. Such sudden and wondrous redemption has graced many of our world's great men and mystics of all religions, but let us for the moment discard the inhibitions of conditioned beliefs and consider Saul's conversion as factually true. Could a beam of light under intelligent control from the skies have shone upon Saul, and a voice directed him him to evangelise for Christ, as centuries earlier identical lights and voices had inspired Abraham and Moses, and as today the very same lights and voices are alleged to prompt sensitives and flying saucer 'contacts' all over the world? If such a startling interpretation can be substantiated, a thrilling illumination transforms religion and human thought.

If such lights from the skies were chronicled before and after A.D. 35 would it not be logical to suggest that the light inspiring Paul and our whole Western world emanated from an extra-terrestrial source with all the tremendous revolution this revelation would bring?

Lights in the sky were mentioned by many classical writers:

B.C. 217. "At Falerii the sky had seemed to be rent as it were with a great fissure and through the opening a bright light had shone."

(Livy. *History of Rome*. Book XXII. Chap. 1.)

B.C. 213. "At Ariminium a bright light like the day blazed out at night, in many portions of Italy three moons became visible in the night-time."

(Dio Cassius. *Roman History*. Vol. II.)

B.C. 102. "In a camp in Gaul a light shone at night."

(Julius Obsequens. *Prodigiorum Libellus*.)

A.D. 70. "In Jerusalem, when the people were assembled for the Feast of Unleavened Bread on the eighth of April at the ninth hour of the night, a light shone on the altar and on the Temple so brightly that it seemed to be full day and this lasted for half an hour."

(Josephus. *Jewish War*. Book III, Chap. VIII.

The prodigies recorded by Julius Obsequens in Roman times and throughout the whole Bible were chronicled in the Middle Ages by Matthew of Paris and in recent centuries by the works of Charles Fort, all similar to the UFO phenomena witnessed today, but probably the most striking manifestation of a light from heaven under intelligent control was mentioned by the Venerable Bede in Saxon days thirteen centuries ago. Bede (673–735), 'the father of English history', was the most learned Englishman of his age; the forty books he wrote are particularly noted for the care with which he sought out and selected reliable information. Any incidents he quoted therefore merit credence as actual facts not as visions. In his tiny cell at Jarrow Bede was famed as a scholar and teacher of Latin, Greek and Hebrew; he was no narrow-minded pedant for in addition to his *Ecclesiastical History of England* he wrote *De Natura Rerum*, an encyclopaedia of all the sciences then known, setting down the theories of the Greek philosophers that the world was round, a truth that the Church

was to stifle for a thousand years.

How would theologians and our UFO students today evaluate the light transfiguring Saul on the road to Damascus in A.D. 35 in view of that controlled light from the skies illumining the Saxon monastery at Barking in A.D. 664?

A.D. 664. "In a monastery at Barking near the Thames in the burial ground at night as the nuns were singing at the graves, behold suddenly a light sent from heaven like a great sheet came upon them and the light lifted up, moved to the other side of the monastery, then withdrew to the heights of heaven. The self-same brightness of the light made the sun at midday seem but dark. In the morning young men in the Church reported that the beams of light entering in the chinks of the door and windows did seem to pass all brightness of the day before."

(Bede, *Ecclesiastical History*, Book 4, Chap. 7.)

Visitants from space on their milennia-old surveillance scrutinising Man's evolution on Earth?

This light focused from the skies exactly thirteen hundred years ago illumined more than an Anglo-Saxon monastery; it illumines now a vast and startling revelation revolutionising the very foundations of human thought.

The likeness of the prodigy to "a great sheet" of light shining on those monks and nuns was surely prompted to the pious Bede by the Holy Scriptures apparently describing a spaceship manifesting to Peter, when in A.D. 41 the Apostle was praying upon a housetop in Joppa about the sixth hour.

"And saw heaven opened and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners and let down to earth."

(*Acts*, Chapter X, Verse 11.)

A voice commanded Peter to "rise, kill and eat."

"This was done thrice; and the vessel was received up again into heaven."

(*Acts*, Chapter X, Verse 16.)

Freeing our minds momentarily from the miasma of religious dogma, we are startled by the resemblance between this sighting and the scout-ship allegedly appearing to Adamski in the Californian Desert in 1952; indeed the Spaceman's remarks to Peter seemed as trivial as the Venusian's conversation with Adamski. A fantasy, when all the wisdom of the universe awaits revelation!

As he penned in scholarly Latin his account of this heavenly light examining the monastery at Barking only nine years before he himself was born, Bede's thoughts would doubtless dwell on that Visitant in A.D. 43 who delivered Peter from Herod in Antioch when the Apostle "was sleeping between two soldiers bound with two chains and the keepers before the door kept the prison."

"And behold the angel of the Lord came upon him and a light shined in the prison, and he smote Peter on the side and raised him up saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands." (*Acts*, Chapter XII, Verse 7.)

If we accept this incident as literally true and believe that it was a spaceman who rescued Peter and another who spoke to Paul on the road to Damascus, does this make us less religious? Should these demonstrations not expand our worship of God and of His universe?

Lights in the sky recorded over Ancient Rome re-appeared at intervals in Saxon times, although Bede tended to associate these heavenly searchlights with macabre happenings.

"About 600 A.D. Peter, Abbot of St. Augustine Monastery near Canterbury, was sent as a legate to Gaul and was drowned near Ambleteuse. For several nights a light from heaven played over his body until the neighbours adjudged him to have been a man of God, disinterred the body and buried it in St. Mary's Church, Boulogne."

(*Ecclesiastical History*, Book 2, Chap. XXXIII.)

"In 634 A.D. the body of Oswald, King of Northumbria, slain in battle lay in a chariot outside the monastery of Bardney in Lincolnshire. For all that night long a pillar of light reaching from that chariot unto heaven stood, so that it was plainly seen in all places almost of the same province of Lindsay."

(*Ecclesiastical History*, Book III, Chap. XI.)

A.D. 690: "Two English priests were murdered by heathens in Saxony and their bodies thrown into the Rhine. A very great beam of light reaching to heaven followed their bodies as they floated in the river. Pippin, Duke of the Franks, had their bodies buried very honourably in the Church of St. Cunibert."

(*Ecclesiastical History*, Book V, Chap. X.)

We are startled by the resemblance to that "pillar of fire" which guided the Children of Israel through the Wilderness.

"And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night."

(*Exodus*, Chapter XIV, Verse 21.)

Each age interprets celestial prodigies in terms of its own thought-patterns; the Romans beheld martial Gods and flying shields, the Jews Angels with wings and vessels of precious jewels, Adamski saw Venusian Supermen and spaceships. It is natural therefore that the pious religious communities of Saxon England should view signs in the skies as manifestations of the heavenly hosts. Indeed the Anglo-Saxons seemed to imagine

heaven as a christianised Valhalla of their Teutonic ancestors and Bede recounts many instances of angels descending from heaven.

In A.D. 664, shortly after the beam of light investigated the monastery at Barking, another manifestation there intrigued Bede.

"Tortgyth, a sister at Barking monastery on a certain night when the daylight began to appear, as she went out of her chamber that she abode in, saw plainly as it were, a corpse brighter than the sun, wound up in muslin and carried upward being taken indeed from the house in which the sisters were wont to rest. And as she diligently marked what it should be that drew upwards, this vision of the glorious body which she beheld, she saw that it was lifted up on high as it were by cords brighter than gold, until it was taken into the open heavens and could be seen by her no longer."

(*Ecclesiastical History*, Book 4, Chap. IX.)

In the following chapter X, Book 4, Bede continues:

"In Barking monastery Ethelburga was succeeded by Hildilid and over the grounds there often appeared the heavenly light with a fragrant odour of a marvellous sweet savour, later marvels occurred as though the bright light brought curative powers . . ." Bede goes on to marvel that the wife of a certain Count herself blind prayed to God in that place and recovered her lost sight.

In that same wonderful year A.D. 664 "The devout and godly Sebbi, King of the East Saxons, reported that three men came to him arrayed in bright apparel as he lay sick."

(*Ecclesiastical History*, Book 4, Chapter XI.)

Fourteen years afterwards a boy in a monastery at Bosham near Chichester who was ill described a visitation by "Two men altogether notable in their array and countenance, one shaven like a clerk, the other had a long beard . . . sent from heaven itself."

(*Ecclesiastical History*, Book 4, Chapter XIV.)

In A.D. 776 the *Annales Laurissenses* described two flying shields spitting fire, which routed the Saxons besieging the Knights of Charlemagne at Sigiburg. The Norman chronicler, Gaimar, in his curious epic *Lestorie des Engles* written in A.D. 1135 mentions prodigies terrifying the people of Northumberland in A.D. 793:

"At the time I tell you of, signs were shown to the country; red signs appeared such as no man living ever saw before, like scarlet they spread. They appeared near the earth, then came great whirlwinds and lightnings, which men saw."

These same phenomena were recorded by the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for A.D. 793.

"In this year terrible portents appeared over Northumbria and miserably frightened the inhabitants, these were exceptional flashes of lightning and fiery dragons were seen flying in the air."

Abbot Einhard, the contemporary biographer of Charlemagne, describes how in A.D. 810 the Emperor on a road from Aachen saw a ball of fire fall from heaven and with a great light speed from east to west. In fright Charlemagne's horse flung him to the ground and the old King was sorely bruised.

The "red signs" of A.D. 793 returned in A.D. 827 to the Pyrenees. A mediaeval Latin manuscript *Ludovici Pii Vita*, a biography of Louis the Pious describes how the King sent his son, Pippin, to lay waste northern Spain. A free translation runs:

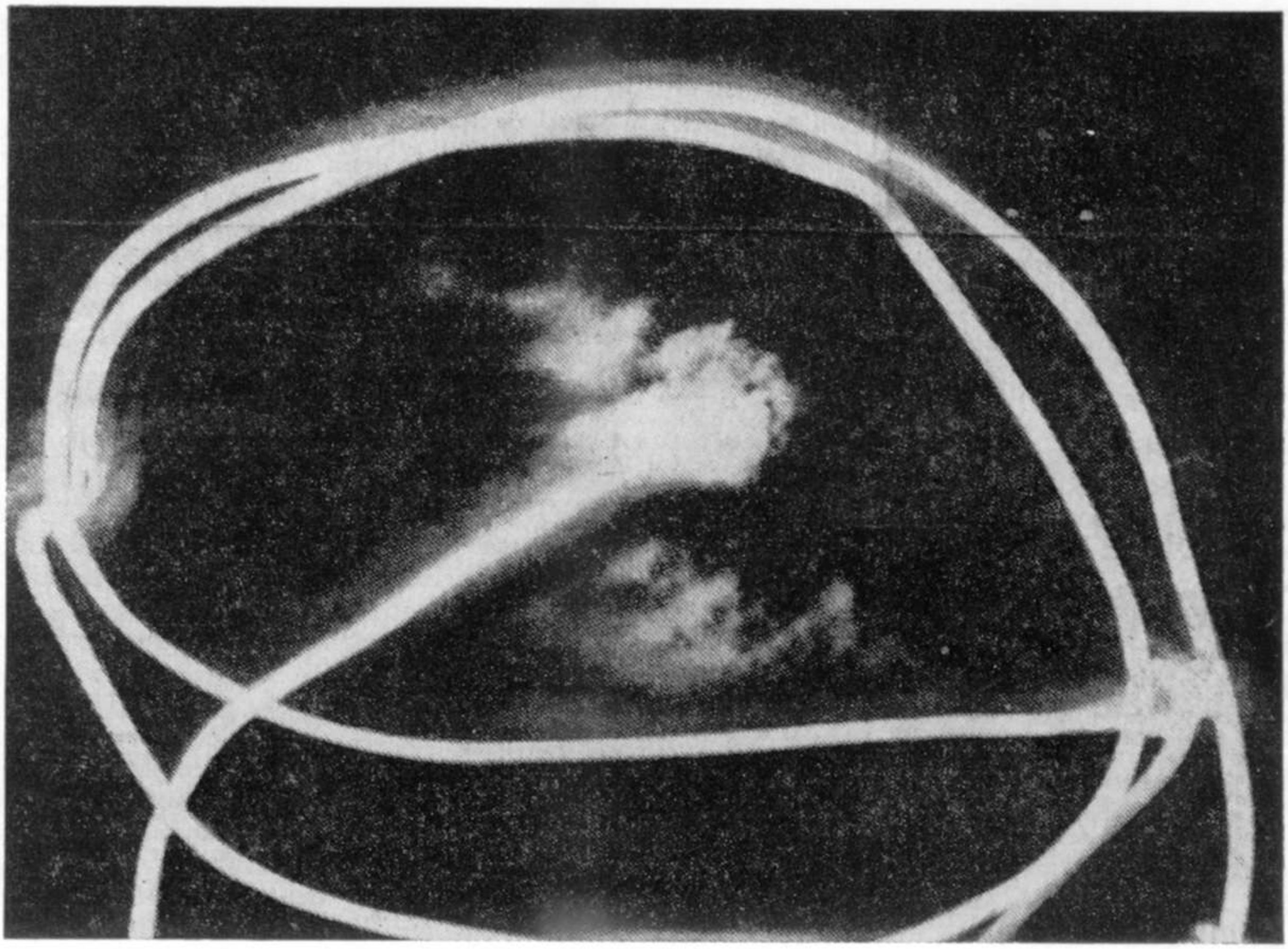
"In truth there preceded this slaughter those terrible aerial visions during the night glowing red like human blood and blazing with a palish fire."

This prodigy caused great wonder for it was independently confirmed by Einhard in his *Annales Eginhardus*.

A few years later, about A.D. 840, Agobard, Archbishop of Lyons, penned: *De Grandine et Tonittuis* scolding the French peasants for believing that tempests were caused by storm-raisers, demon-riders of the skies.

The literature of Anglo-Saxon times abounds with chronicles of lights from heaven, discarnate voices, apparitions to sensitives or saints, identical to the prodigies of Ancient Rome, the wonders of the Bible, the marvels in earth and sky throughout the Middle Ages. All correspond with the flying saucer phenomena and the spacemen appearing today.

What if the Scriptures are true but our interpretation is wrong? Why must our conditioned minds wilfully ignore the persistent surveillance of our Earth since ancient times?



A reproduction of M. Pierre Leger's photograph which appeared in *Ouest France* **of July 2. The photograph was taken at midnight, June 27**

Mystery photograph from France

Within a ten days interval, two inhabitants of Saint-Remy-des-Monts witnessed a celestial phenomenon which could not fail to cause astonishment. *Ouest France* in its issue of July 2 asks: "What was it? That is difficult to say. Perhaps it was an artificial satellite or even an object of extra-terrestrial origin."

M. Pierre Leger, a designer, and his mother were returning from a visit to friends looked towards the sky when "a sort of ball of an impressive white luminosity", to quote M.Leger's own description, was seen to travel across the sky from the north-west towards the south-east. M.Leger and his mother were able to observe the object for about twelve minutes. Then the thing disappeared. On Saturday, June 27, at about midnight M.Leger was returning from the cinema when once again he saw the object which seemed to be hovering and then advancing very slowly. He rushed into the house, called to his mother and grabbed his camera. For about twelve minutes they both watched the object which was clearly distinguished from the stars by its great size and intensity.

"Then I seized my camera and with my shutter open I followed the convolutions of this object which moved without any noise whatsoever," Pierre Leger explained to the newspaper reporter. The *Ouest France* declared that it was unable to offer any explanation of the phenomenon, though in a caption to the photograph it describes it as "disturbing."

It must be born in mind that M.Leger was moving his camera with the shutter open so the path of travel shown in the photograph is not the true trajectory. Nevertheless, M.Leger's remark that the object was much larger than any star is amply demonstrated by the width of the impression on the photographic plate.

(Credit to Mme. Saunier)

A Note on Fireballs

READERS of Dr. Menzel's latest book, *The World of Flying Saucers* will recall *that the author attempted to explain one mystery (UFOs) in terms of another (fireballs). It would seem that the latter subject has attracted as little scientific attention as the former. Indeed, if one takes a close look at the history of fireballs one is almost persuaded that their behaviour resembles that of the Foo Fighters of the 1939–1945 war. Even Dr. Menzel had to admit that scientists knew very little about fireballs, though he was prepared to invoke them as conventionalisations for flying saucers. The saucer student could equally well reverse the process and claim that what was known as a fireball in the past was in fact the flying saucer of today.

A 19th Century Report

In Arthur Constance's *The Inexplicable Sky*, first published in 1956, there is a whole chapter devoted to these aerial mysteries. Among the incidents quoted, one of the most notable was recounted by Camille Flammarion, founder of the French Astronomical Society in 1887. Here is the story as related by Arthur Constance: "In October 1898, at Marseilles, a fireball made its appearance in a room and advanced towards a young girl, who was seated at a table, her feet hanging down without touching the floor. The luminous globe moved along the floor in the girl's direction, began to rise when near her, and then moved round and round her above the table, finally darting away towards a hole in a chimney made for a stovepipe, closed up with glued paper. It tore its way through the paper, travelled up the chimney, and emerged into the open air, exploding with a crash that shook the building. M. Flammarion commented: 'It was a case of coming in like a lamb and going out like a lion.' That sense of direction shown by the fireball in moving towards the girl, circling her, and choosing an obvious yet restricted exit to the open air is a characteristic of numbers of fireballs. Flammarion gives another case in which a globe of fire suddenly appeared at the top of a poplar tree, and, according to one spectator, descended branch by branch, then moved across the courtyard of the farm very slowly. This eyewitness said: 'The ball seemed almost to pick its way between pools of water. It came up to the door of a stable, where stood two children, and one of them was bold enough to touch it with his foot. At once there was a terrible crash which shook the entire farm to its foundations.' Amazingly, the two children were uninjured, but eleven animals in the stable were killed." Arthur Constance goes on to remark that he has noticed that in incident after incident of this kind the human beings involved have miraculously escaped.

Another amazing incident is quoted by the author of *The Inexplicable Sky* on page 141: "Mr. Butti, marine painter to the Empress of Austria, wrote to Aragol the celebrated French scientist who made a study of this phenomenon) to tell him of a sensational occurrence in Milan in June 1841. Butti was then staying at the Hotel del Agnello, in a room on the second floor overlooking the Corsia dei Servi. About six in the afternoon thunder began, rain fell in torrents, and flashes of lightning lighted the room repeatedly. Butti was smoking a cigar and watched the scene through the open window when he heard the sound of running feet and the voices of people shouting, '*Guarda! Guarda!*' Butti wrote: 'Turning my head to the right the first thing that met my view was a globe of fire at the level of my window moving in the middle of the street, not horizontally, but sensibly slanting upwards. Eight or ten persons still calling out "*Guarda! Guarda!*" with their eyes fixed on the meteor, kept up with it. . . . The ball of fire passed quietly in front of my window, so that I was obliged to turn my head to look after it. . . . I hastened down the stairs and into the street, which I reached in time to see the meteor and to join with the rest of the curious spectators who were following it. It moved still with the same slowness, but in its oblique, upward march had already risen considerably, and in three minutes more it struck the cross of the steeple of the Church dei Servi and disappeared. Its disappearance was accompanied by a sound like the discharge of a 36-pounder gun, heard at a distance of 13 or 14 miles with a favourable wind. I can only give an idea of the dimensions and colour of this fiery ball by comparing it to the moon as one sees it rise over the Alps in clear winter nights, as I remember sometimes having seen it at Innsbruck in the Tyrol, of a reddish yellow, with some parts more red than the rest. The difference was that I could not see the precise outline of the meteor as one does that of the moon; it seemed enveloped in an atmosphere of light of which one could not define the limits'."

On another occasion, on May 17, 1852, at 5 p.m. a luminous ball appeared near Beuzeville Railway Station. The Stationmaster was one of many who witnessed the phenomenon and according to his testimony the globe stopped suddenly in

its flight about 60 feet away from him and then completely vanished.

Arthur Constance comments that he could easily fill a book with other and similar accounts of fireballs. The contemporary explanation offered for the mystery was "electrical phenomena", electricity then being an almost magical world to the layman who, no doubt like his modern counterpart, accepted anything issuing from a scientific source or an official authority. Dr. Menzel, perhaps unconsciously, offers the fireball as a scientific explanation for the flying sacucer without realising that he is leaving the mystery as deep as ever and the explanation as far to seek. In fact, in exploiting the fireball he is back to the "electrical phenomenon" explanation, though at one remove. And that explains nothing at all.

*See "The World of Dr. Menzel", article in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, May-June, 1964 issue.

NICAP'S REPORT

The UFO evidence surveyed . . .

THE long awaited report,* compiled by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena of Washington, D.C., was released on July 5. The reactions of American public opinion are hard to assess at the moment. In England, the television news service referred to the matter in more than one bulletin, but among the national newspapers only *The Times* and the *Daily Telegraph* gave it any serious attention: *The Times* devoted half a column of reasonable comment, but failed to mention the report in which criticisms of both the United States Air Force and the British Air Ministry had appeared.

The Purpose of the Report

Before making any specific comments on the report itself it is necessary to mention that the volume of evidence not unnaturally specialises, not wholly but largely, in those incidents occurring over America. The purpose behind the compilation was to alert the American public, via Congress and the newspapers, to the fact that the subject of UFOs was to be taken seriously and to expose the censorship that undoubtedly exists on both sides of the Atlantic. To the saucer student who is internationalist in approach and who reads the volume without realising its primary purpose it will appear much too limited in its range. This is not intended as a criticism—it would be manifestly unfair to mention the point except as a warning. While a small section is devoted to foreign reports (i.e. foreign to the United States), inevitably a general impression is conveyed that the phenomenon is in some way predominantly American. To this extent the report suffers from a handicap because, contrary to general American belief, the sightings over that country have not been unduly high nor in the context of happenings elsewhere have they been particularly remarkable. England has had more than her fair share (based on geographical considerations) of sightings when compared with the U.S.A.: France, Brazil, Italy and the Argentine have each of them contributed more sensational and persistent evidence. In this context the report quotes from a statement made by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Chief scientific consultant to the American Air Force on UFOs. He wrote in the April 1963 issue of the *Yale Scientific Magazine* as follows: "Although we tend to think of flying saucers as peculiarly American, they are international in scope. England has had more reported sightings, per square mile of territory, than has the United States. France has had its share, not only sporadically, but also in one apparently major wave in the fall of 1954. Brazil, Spain, Italy, Australia, Canada and even several Iron Curtan countries have also been the sources of reports." Dr. Hynek here betrays a considerable knowledge of the subject. That knowledge must perforce be shared with the United States Air Force.

Having said that, the NICAP report can be most warmly welcomed and it is hoped that its reception and its effect on Congress, and the United States Air Force and ultimately on world public opinion will justify the immense amount of work and care that has been devoted to its compilation. The report was issued at a propitious moment for flying saucers have been gaining in acceptability for some time now: the cat has been seen to be emerging from the bag for well over a year. Orthodoxy, however, yields by inches and while the impact of *The UFO Evidence* will always be recognised as a turning point in the struggle for the truth, we may have to go on fighting for quite a while yet before the final triumph. As one UFO

commentator has remarked: "We haven't won yet, but we know we cannot lose."

Although our next is a small point it is worth raising largely because, by a coincidence, notes on "spindle shapes" appear elsewhere in this issue. In the photographic section of the NICAP report on page 93 there appears the following account: "Joe Perry, Grand Blanc, Michigan. The *Detroit Times*, March 9 (1960?), reported the story of this photograph, stating that the FBI was investigating it. While pursuing his hobby of astronomical photography, Mr. Perry obtained a colour photograph (slide) reportedly showing a UFO which was 'disc-shaped with a dome and leaving a green trail.' (The image on the print examined by NICAP is similar to a black disc viewed edge-on, but not perfectly symmetrical, and the 'object' is surrounded by green colouration resembling a glow.) The FBI turned Mr. Perry's slide over to the Air Force for analysis. Later the Air Force stated their opinion 'that the blue spots (sic) on the slide are not images but result from damage to the emulsion during the developing process.' A colour print of Mr. Perry's photograph was analysed for NICAP by Max B. Miller, who reported September 18, 1960: The UFO quite probably a cinch mark . . . it could either be foreign matter which attached itself to the film during processing or undeveloped emulsion, and I'm inclined to say the latter . . ."

The accompanying sketch of the photograph appended to the report shows an exact counterpart of the spindle-shaped objects reproduced in this issue. The fact that the caption to the photograph reads: "Appearance of typical lens flare sometimes mistaken for UFOs; caused by bright light source reflecting from camera lens" illustrates the dangers of isolationism in dealing with the UFO mystery. When even this particular aspect is surveyed on an international scale, it will be seen that this particular shape appears, on occasion, when (a) there is no bright light source and (b) when there is no lens to flare. These comments also underline the warning repeatedly voiced in the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW that allegations of hoaxes, misinterpretations etc. need as careful investigation as do the apparently genuine flying saucer reports. A point has been given quite unnecessarily by NICAP to the sceptics and it is significant that had it noted the non-American evidence it would not have made this mistake. There is no need to claim the Perry photograph is a saucer, but the "shape" cannot universally be explained away as a trick of light.

In view of recent events, one of the most interesting sections in this report comes at the end. Section XIII deals with Congress and the UFOs. On August 31, 1957, Senator Barry Goldwater wrote to NICAP: "I am an Air Force Reserve Officer and have been one for the last 27 years and, consequently, I am, indeed, interested in unidentified flying objects. I, frankly, feel that there is a great deal to this and I have discussed it often with many Air Force Officers . . ." In the May-June issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW we quoted President Lyndon Johnson's interest in the subject, so it would appear that whoever wins in November, the UFOs will continue to have a friend at court. If an English review is permitted to make such a comment, it would seem that Barry Goldwater is the candidate more likely to order a general release, for he appears to an English audience as much more of a rebel than Lyndon Johnson. Time alone will tell.

From the English point of view, this NICAP report is of paramount important in that no similar pressure can be applied to our own Ministry of Defence. While the United States Air Force does appear to investigate UFO incidents before issuing false conclusions, the British counterpart issues its nonsensical findings before and often without any investigation whatsoever. It would seem that it has been ordered to play the subject down and to leave the matter to the United States. The latest evidence available is that the Ministry of Defence shuns the subject until its hand is forced and only when it is obliged to speak does a committee decide on an explanation which UFO students know to be false but which is just acceptable to an ignorant and misinformed public.

If NICAP's pressure can open the American door to the truth, then the British will swing open too. And when it does, it is possible that the truth will be much more sensational than many UFO researchers at the moment believe. If flying saucers, UFOs, call them what you will, have been in truth visiting us for even the last seventeen years then they have been here for a purpose and it is hard to believe, on the inter-planetary hypothesis, that they have left their country and come to ours just for the change of air and scene. Have they all gone back? In view of the purpose of the report it is quite understandable that it excludes such considerations as these and concentrates on proving the existence of solid unidentified objects that obey an intelligent control.

* *The UFO Evidence*. The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington 36, D.C., U.S.A. To members of NICAP, 3.95. Non-members 4.95.

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

Wakefield revisited

The following account is taken from the *Yorkshire Evening Post*, issue of May 28: "A strange object in the sky was seen once again over Wakefield last night, hovering with an orange glow to the north-west of the city before disappearing. During the past few days the mysterious UFO (unidentified flying object) has appeared in the same spot, observed by many people in the city. Similar reports have been received from Leeds and Barnsley.

"Mr John Bentham, aged 54, switchboard operator at the Wakefield 'A' Power Station has seen the object on three occasions. He saw it last night at 9.45 p.m.' It was elongated and had a reddish orange glow with light shining out at both ends,' he said. 'It seemed to hover over the city for nearly two hours and then slowly made off in the direction from which it came.'

"Mr. Bentham took his binoculars to work after he had seen the object for the first time on Saturday, and a compass to plot its course.

" 'It was definitely not a star or a plane. It hovered before moving off towards the north-west,' he said.

Mr Alfred Booth (43), of Lupset Crescent, Wakefield, who was working at Wakefield Sewerage Works, Calder Vale Road, also saw the object. 'It was half-moon shaped with an orange glow in the middle,' he said.

Torquay incident

From the Torquay *Herald Express*, May 23:

"Just what was the strange object seen in the sky over Wakefield on Tuesday night by at least two different families? A satellite, a high-flying jet, or one of those strange UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) which most of us lump together under the generic name of 'Flying Saucer'? Both reports, which come from reasonable people not given to sensational flights of the imagination, seem to indicate that the UFO, whatever it was, acted in a way no known inhabitant of the sky normally acts. And one report at least tallied almost exactly with a report given to a scientist at Leeds University by a woman from Barnsley, who claimed to have seen an object acting in a similar manner two nights previously.

"We first heard of the incident from Mrs Mary Oldroyd, of 17 Malham Square, Eastmoor Estate, who with her husband Walter, teenaged daughter Ruth and their neighbour Mr. Roy Carter, watched a strange light in the sky from just after midnight on Tuesday (May 19) until it disappeared some 25 minutes later.

" 'It looked like a bright star with a pinkish tinge, moving very slowly in a wide arc from south to north, and every now and then there was a clearly visible up and down movement,' said Mrs Oldroyd.

"Mr Oldroyd saw it first. A former R.A.F. man, he often looks at the night sky before going to bed and on this occasion saw the strange light, moving slowly over the roof-tops. 'It didn't seem to be moving fast enough for a high-flying jet, nor regularly enough for a satellite, so I called my wife and Ruth out to look at it. Then we called Mr Carter over' he said. So sure was Mrs Oldroyd that what they had seen was, for the moment, unexplainable, but real, that she rang Mr Brian Meek, a scientist at Leeds University who is interested in such phenomena.

" 'He was most interested in what I had to report, and told me that he had received a similar report from a woman in Barnsley only two nights previously, in which the same strange up and down movement was mentioned' said Mrs Oldroyd.

"Certainly the UFO didn't follow any of the rules normally associated with high-flying objects. Its trajectory was not straight enough for a satellite; it travelled far too slowly for a jet; and the light was too steady and unwinking to be classed as reflected light from a high-flying balloon.

"Over to the second report, which came from two children, Stephen Holton, aged 9, and his sister Julie, aged 7, and their grandmother, Mrs J. Knee, of 55 Mountbatten Crescent, Outwood. Just over two hours earlier on Tuesday night, at about 9.50 p.m., Stephen had seen a queer light in the sky and had called his grandmother and sister out to look at it.

" 'It was very bright, and seemed to be moving very high up. Every now and then it went round in circles, then set off in a different direction until it went out of sight going toward the north,' said Mrs Knee.

"Whatever it was—and we should be interested to hear if anyone else saw anything strange late on Tuesday night—it has certainly aroused curiosity in many people, including Mr Meek, who has made a study of this subject of UFOs."

Sussex saucer

From the *Bognor Regis Observer* of May 15:

"A 'brilliantly coloured' unidentified object was spotted by three guests at a Bognor Regis hotel on Tuesday evening (May 12), hovering in clouds in the western sky.

"The three people were standing on the front lawn of Black Mill House,

Princess Avenue, soon after 9 o'clock, when a woman in the party pointed to what she had thought was a bright star until it moved. Another guest, the Rev. Father Matthew, of Mitcham, Surrey, said 'I'm certain it was a flying saucer. It appeared from behind a cloud and moved slowly from right to left.'

" 'The object was very bright and seemed to be moving nearer. The edges were sharply defined and it had a long tail.'

"Father Matthew said 'I would have recognised an aircraft and I have seen a satellite which was much smaller than this. It was about twice the size of the evening star and much brighter.'

"He called out other guests to see the object, which he says was visible for about ten minutes, moving as if it was floating.

"A spokesman at R.A.F. Tangmere said no unidentified objects had been reported."

Hurstpierpoint saucer

From the Brighton *Southern Weekly News*, June 5:

"Three people claimed on Friday that a flying saucer passed over Hurstpierpoint the night before. Mrs. P. Cope, of Willow Crescent, Hurstpierpoint, was driving home when she saw something that was not a helicopter and not an aircraft. It looked like a swastika all lit up. It was not moving. It sank in the north-west sky and went bright orange.

"Mr. N. Orlebar, of The Finches, Albourne, has no doubts about what he saw. He said: 'The official explanation of all these things is to deny they exist. They don't want to scare people. I think it was a flying saucer. At first I thought it was a star, it was quite a long way off. I got my binoculars to look. Every now and then it jumped around in what I can only describe as a figure of eight. It was very like a similar saucer I saw when crossing the Channel last year.'

"Mrs. G. E. Dickenson, of Gravelye Cottages, Gravelye Lane, Lindfield, was in her garden late that night.

" 'I noticed this star in the sky. It had a reddish tint to it. It seemed to waver about. It definitely moved about and was reddish. It was not an aeroplane nor a star. I think it was a flying saucer,' she concluded."

Fantasy at Felling

The Newcastle-upon-Tyne *Journal* in its June 9 issue devoted a considerable amount of space to incidents alleged to have taken place at nearby Felling. We leave it to our readers to decide whether some fact and much fantasy is involved or whether sceptism about saucers has at some stage distorted the sensational truth. The account reads:

"Flashes . . . loud buzzes in the night . . . little green men chasing each other around haystacks . . . egg-shaped flying saucers . . . No, the leprechauns aren't loose and it's no Irishman who is telling this tale—just the good people of Felling. For stories are going round Leam Lane Estate that flying spacemen in egg-shaped flying saucers are using the area for manoeuvres. So persistent are the reports that a full-scale investigation has been launched by one organisation.

"Centre of the activity is Hopedene Avenue where most of the residents have heard a loud buzzing noise, and so far, no one has come up with a logical explanation for them.

"One person who has seen the flying saucer is 13-year-old Keith Bell. He said last night: 'I was looking out of the window late one night when there was a terrific flash in the sky. Then a flying saucer, egg-shaped and giving off a bright glow appeared. I saw it twice before it flew off."

"Keith's mother refused to believe him at first, but later saw the same flashes herself which lit up the whole of their front room. 'I was terrified,' she said.

"And the little green men? They were seen by 14-year-old David Wilson. He said: 'I saw several small green creatures, about two feet high running around a haystack on a farm near the estate.'

"But not everyone believes the stories. Last night Mr. M. Coates, headmaster of Roman Road junior school, denied that he had called a special assembly of pupils to discuss the little green men, or that he had told the children to stay away from the farm. He said: 'There is no truth at all in these silly rumours.'

"Investigations are being carried out by the Tyneside Unidentified Flying Objects Society who issued an interim report last night. Mr. J. T. Otley said: 'While we appreciate that this thing has snowballed until there is a vein of pure fantasy involved, we nevertheless believe that these lights and the buzzing sound heard by so many people are somehow connected. Our investigators have found that many sensible people heard this noise and young David Wilson is described by his parents and friends as a truthful boy who would not invent anything of this nature.' "

Sightings at Seaton Burn

From the Newcastle-upon-Tyne *Evening Chronicle*, of June 26:

"Mr. Edwin Vipond, 'mine host' at the Moor House Inn, Seaton Burn, Northumberland, and his wife, Eileen, saw a flying saucer today.

" 'And before you make a crack about the beer being too strong,' said Mr. Vipond, 'let me say that we did not imagine this. It was quite definitely a flying saucer.' Mr. Vipond and his wife both saw the flying saucer—time: 2 a.m. today.

"Mrs. Vipond told the *Evening Chronicle*: 'It was a hot night and we had the bedroom window open. Then we heard this loud buzzing noise like the high pitched buzzing of a spinning top. It kept droning on and on until I went to the window to see what was causing it'.

" 'I looked up and there, high in the sky, was the saucer, ringed in an electric blue light. The whole saucer seemed to be pulsating up and down.'

"Mr. Vipond, who joined his wife at the window, added: 'I could hardly believe my eyes. The saucer was moving in an east to west direction. Then it shot upwards and out of sight.'

"The couple feel sure that someone else may have seen the saucer. Said Mrs. Vipond:—'There was a lot of heavy traffic on the road for that time of the morning and someone must have seen it.' "

(Credit to Mr. Harry Lord.)

The stranger in the photograph

Without necessarily suggesting that this strange occurence has any connection with flying saucers, we quote, as a matter of general interest, the following item from the London *Daily Express* for June 13:

"On the lonely marsh beside the Solway Firth, Jim Templeton pressed the trigger of his camera. In front of

him was his five-year-old daughter Elizabeth. And in the distance the Chapel Cross atomic station and a Nato radar-tracking base.

"Jim, a 44-year-old Carlisle fireman, sent off his colour film for processing. Back it came with a note: 'Your best picture has been spoiled by a man in the background.'

" 'I don't know anything about spacemen, but there was definitely nobody in front of my camera except Elizabeth. There was nothing in sight for half a mile in fact—except for my wife and my other daughter. And they were behind me.'

" 'There wasn't even a tree or anything on the skyline which could have caused a reflection. The firm which made the film assure me that it must have been perfect.'

"Behind Elizabeth the picture showed a 'spaceman' in a white padded suit and helmet. He looked about 7ft. tall.

"Jim said last night: 'I took it to the Carlisle police. They were amazed.'

" 'The photograph was so good and clear I don't think it could have been a technical fault.'

"Carlisle police experts studied the picture, Detective Chief Superintendent Tom Oldcorn said yesterday: 'At first sight we thought it was a double exposure. But it's not. The picture shows someone in white, but Mr. Templeton says there was no one else about. It is very puzzling.'

" 'We're not taking it seriously It must be some sort of freak picture.' "

All atempts made on behalf of the REVIEW *to get in touch with Mr. Templeton proved unsuccessful. The reason may perhaps be found in a brief and practically unnoticed paragraph in the* Daily Express *of June* 20 *to the effect that both Mr. Templeton's film and camera had been sent to the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall. The photograph will therefore be either dismissed as a trick of light or we shall hear no more about he matter.*

Two puzzled readers

The Liverpool *Echo* in its July 9 issue printed these two readers' letters: "Did anyone else see the strange object in the sky at approximately 11.15 p.m. on Friday, July 3.

" 'Lying in bed I saw a massive star, which began to move slowly but surely to my right. I called my 17-years-old son, who, too, was puzzled, more so when the 'star,' after travelling what to us seemed a couple of yards, changed its course, took a semicircular turn and travelled back the way it came. We both watched its progress until the roof tops hid it from view, and as it travelled towards the Runcorn direction it changed its colour from brilliant silver to vivid red. We could most definitely see a signal flashing intermittently from it. It was certainly no aeroplane.' "—Mrs. M. F., Hunts Cross.

"At 11.28 p.m. on Saturday night (July 4) my wife and I saw a bright starlike light move very slowly over Seacombe and across the river to Liverpool. It was silent and far too slow for a plane and appeared much too low for a star. We watched it for a full five minutes—Mr. and Mrs. Oldrid, 31 Birnan Road, Wallasey."

(Credit to Mr. Kenneth Taylor)

More Liverpool Witnesses

The Liverpool *Echo* on July 13 printed the following report: "Was it a spacecraft or just a shooting star? Mr. James Cassidy, 7 Derwent Road, Crosby, was asking himself today. About 11.25 last night, Mr. Cassidy, standing at the front door, saw a stationary object in the sky.

" 'The only way I can describe it,' Mr. Cassidy said today, 'was that it appeared to be a very, very bright star. It was stationary for about 10 minutes then moved off north-north east,' he added.

"Mr. Cassidy, aged 23 and an engineer, said it was a lot brighter than a normal star. 'Twelve of my neighbours also witnessed it,' he said.

"There have also been reports of objects being sighted over other parts of Merseyside and the Isle of Man during the past week."

(Credit to Mr. Kenneth Taylor)

Aintree mystery lights

We are indebted to Mr. Kenneth Taylor for having sent us this cutting from the Liverpool *Evening Echo* for July 6: "Two mystery objects in the sky were spotted by an Aintree man travelling in the early hours of yesterday.

"Mr. John Eaves, of 14 Eastbourne Road, Aintree, told the *Echo* to-day: 'The two objects were very bright like stars. They were travelling in a straight line from Liverpool towards Preston. They were certainly not planes and were not high enough in the sky to be stars.'

"Several other people in the Aintree area had seen them, he said. He spotted them at 1.10 a.m. yesterday while walking along Aintree Lane. Both Liverpool Airport and Bidston Observatory received a report of the objects but neither could to-day provide an explanation."

Manchester UFO

The following letters appeared in the June 23 issue of the *Manchester Evening News:* "I too noticed the 'mystery object mentioned by your correspondent Puzzled of Hale. I was travelling by car from Chester to Altrincham on Sunday June 14 and mentioned it to four other occupants of the car.

It seemed to disappear behind buildings as we drew nearer. The object can be described as a large white disc.

Cornbrook. Observer.

". . . I also saw it. At 9.55 precisely, I perceived, hovering at approximately twenty feet above the River Mersey, a slightly phosphorescent elliptical object near the Manchester —Altrincham electric railway. Could it have been a flying saucer?"

C. H. Coxon, 23 Bedford Road, Firswood, Manchester, 16.

Up from Somerset

The Yeovil *Western Gazette* in its July 17 issue printed the following letter from one of its readers:

"Sir,—On Monday, July 6, at approximately 10.25 p.m. I observed a flying object in the south-east, at an angle of about 30° above and on a course parallel to the eastern horizon, moving northwards at a slow, steady rate, travelling through about 150° of vision, passing below the Northern horizon at 10.40 p.m. The object emitted steady light green luminosity equal to a star of fourth magnitude. Watching through powerful observation binoculars for several minutes, I was unable to discern size, shape, markings, or any distinguishing features; no sound was audible although the night was perfectly still, no ground wind, and judging from the clarity of stellar images, even on the horizon, the upper atmosphere was also very

stable. I consider it unlikely that a conventional aircraft was responsible, as no flashing lights, neither red to port, nor white on the tail, were visible. An artificial satellite is also unlikely as the speed was to small. I may add that this observation was entirely accidental.—L. M. Dungworth, Hookgate Cottage, South Brewham, Bruton, Somerset.

Saucer stirs controversy

From the Sheffield *Star*, June 20: "After a silver-coloured object passed over Worksop at a speed 'far quicker than any jet plane' a 'flying saucer' controversy is raging among townspeople.

"The 'saucer' was spotted by Worksop housewife Mrs. Gladys Matthews, of Blyth Road, as she looked through the window of her home on Wednesday.

"She told the *Star* today: 'It came over the trees and travelled through a huge cloud at an immense speed. I ran to the front of the house just in time to see it disappear from view.' "

What Exeter women saw

From the Exeter *Express and Echo* of July 7: "Two Exeter women claim that they saw an 'uncanny' object, which could not have been an aeroplane, flying over their houses at Homefield Road, Heavitree. At 8.50 last night they saw a silver object flying from the direction of the setting sun and yet it was brightly illuminated.

"It was so bright that they could not look directly at it for very long. As it came near them, they saw that it was like a very bright silver cigar, and had no wings.

"They could hear no engine noise, and the object seemed to be moving very slowly but smoothly at about the height of the planes coming in to land at Exeter Airport.

"This was reported to the *Express and Echo* by Mrs. Jean Jarvis, of 10 Homefield Road, who was in the garden of her neighbour, Mrs. Betty Leaworthy, at 14 Homefield Road, when they saw this object.
The Air traffic control at Exeter Airport said today: 'There were no services at that time, but we were night flying.'

"Mrs. Jarvis said: 'I am not saying that this object was a flying saucer, but it certainly was not a 'plane. We stood watching it like cabbages, hardly believing what we saw. When we thought of fetching one of our cameras, it had gone.'

"Once she was sure it was not a 'plane Mrs. Jarvis ran into the house to call her husband, formerly of the R.A.F. and the Royal Observer Corps.

"The 'thing' had gone before he was able to use his expert knowledge.

"Mrs. Jarvis said: 'Neither of us had really believed reports of flying saucers. Now we don't know what to believe. The object we saw was most certainly not an aeroplane. We see planes coming over often at the same height, but this 'thing' was most uncanny. It was so smooth, and the light from it so brilliant. It did not seem to be light reflected from the sun.' "

In its issue of the following day, July 8, the *Express and Echo* printed the following corroborative testimony from further witnesses:

"After a report in last night's *Express and Echo* of an unidentified flying object seen over Heavitree, Exeter, on Monday night, a Lympstone resident has reported a similar phenomenon on the same night.

"Mrs. D. M. Dakyns, of Blue Haze, Churchpath, Lympstone, told a reporter she saw an object, which looked like a large cigar, with a very sharp point, flying over the Exe estuary.

" 'At first I thought it was a model aircraft controlled by radio, but after I read the reports in the *Express and Echo* I felt it was my duty to corroborate the story of the two women,' she said.

"Mrs. Dakyns was able to see the object fairly well—it appeared to be about two feet long from the ground—but she is not sure how high it was flying.

"She said that the sharp end was dull, like aluminium, but that the blunt end of the object was very bright.

" 'When it turned, it was so bright that I was almost blinded,' she said. 'It was the brightest thing I have ever seen.'

"A spokesman at the Air Ministry Press Office said: 'I should think it was a jet,' but Mrs. Dakyns said: 'It most certainly was not a jet. I don't know what it was, but a jet could not have travelled so slowly at such a low height, and could not have turned the way this thing did,' she went on. 'It wheeled around, and just drifted in a turn. It must have been fairly low, but I could hear no engine.'

"Mrs. Dakyns, whose house faces across the estuary towards Exmouth docks, said the object travelled past her house across the river, turned and flew back.

" 'As it turned I could see it perfectly—and it had no wings.'

"She says the object flew over the estuary at about eight o'clock on Monday night.

"The first report of an object came from Mrs. Jean Jarvis, of 10 Homefield Road, Heavitree.

"Coastguards stations at Exmouth and Brixham have no records of sighting an unusual object in the sky on Monday evening, but a Brixham coastguard said there had been many thousands of such reports recorded over the past few years.

"At one time they were reported to the Meteorological Office, and often it was found that there was some good reasons for the reports, but frequently no publicity was permitted about them."

(Credit to Mrs. A. H. Lewis, Mr. E. Gale and many others)

EIRE

Strange objects over Dublin

From the Dublin *Evening Herald* of May 6:

" 'It was bright, silent and travelling low at a great speed from West to East.'

"This was a report left on the pad of Raheny Garda station to-day, about a mysterious object which passed over the area at 4.30 a.m. The object was described as 'like a flying saucer,' but no further details regarding its description or size are given. It was not seen from the control tower of Dublin airport, and Dunsink Observatory said it was probably a small meteorite."

U.S.A.

Boy burnt by UFO

We are indebted to K. W. Bluemer for having sent to us the following item from the *Housten Chronicle* of June 4:

"An 8-year-old boy was in a Hobbs

hospital Wednesday with burns from what he said was a two-foot-long flying object which 'spun like a top and made whooshing sounds.'

"The boy, Charles Keith Davis, was in good condition. He denied starting the fire that burned his face and left him bald. A doctor said the burns were caused by an open flame, but police and medical authorities said they did not know the cause. Police said there was no indication the boy set the fire himself.

"The boy's grandmother, who was standing about three feet from him when the incident occurred, said she heard a strange sound and then saw the boy 'covered in black, with his hair standing on end and burning. I grabbed him and tried to smother out his hair,' Mrs. Frank Smith said.

"Mrs. Smith said, 'I heard this sound, like something whizzing by real fast, and then I heard Charles screaming and I turned and saw him.'

"The incident took place as the boy stood just outside the door of a Hobbs laundry. Mrs. Smith was just inside the door. An employee of the laundry poured water on the boy's head to put out the fire."

Fuzzell puzzled

This sighting report wich appeared in the *Victoria Daily Times* for May 19 was sent to us through the courtesy of Mrs. E. Shook:

"Grangeville, Idaho–For two nights now, residents of this north-central Idaho community have watched a mysterious, bright object in the sky to the north.

"Sheriff James Fuzzell said on Tuesday he wouldn't call it a flying saucer—just a strange object. He said he watched it, along with many other people, and its origin is unexplaned. Fuzzell said it appeared on Sunday night and again on Monday night for nearly two hours.

" 'It looked like a street light but a lot bigger,' Fuzzell said. 'There were people taking pictures last night. It may be a reflection of light.'

"Fuzzell said he watched the object through binoculars. He described it as oblong in shape and eight to 10 feet long. He said it moved 'back and forth on the level.'

"Fuzzell said the object appeared to be near the Cottonwood Air Force Radar Station.

"Col. Luif Zendeguy, station commander said several of his men had reported sighting a bright object. 'Whether it was a star or what I don't know and neither do they' he said. 'We are buffaloed. I have forwarded our report to a higher headquarters.' "

This report is yet another indication of the public's reluctance to admit seeing a flying saucer. Sheriff Fuzzell has seen a 'strange object' but the words 'flying saucer' will not pass his lips. What is a flying saucer? A UFO. What is a UFO? A strange object observed in the sky.

UFO's haunt Washington skies

We are grateful to the *Little Listening Post* for sending the following account taken from the *Washington Daily News* of June 6: "Washington area residents report that unidentified flying objects are haunting the skies again. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Rodeffer of Colesville spotted a 'very brilliant star with reddish overtones' moving against a background of fixed stars in the northern sky last Sunday night.

"The UFO, also observed by the Rodeffers' guests, made a 'sharp left turn, then a U-turn, zig-zagged, and stood still.'

"The object rocked, moved again, and finally 'shot straight up' out of sight, the viewers reported. The maneuvers lasted for about 30 minutes, giving the Rodeffers time to call relatives and friends in Rockville, who also spotted the object.

"The Rodeffers called the Goddard Space Centre, which confirmed that the object could not be either satellites or weather balloons.

"Just prior to this, two daylight sightings were reported from the same area. The UFOs, the viewers said, were bright silvery objects with a 'greenish-blue halo,' flying at jet height. Like the Colesville object, they were noiseless during maneuvers.

"When the object paused in flight, 10-power binoculars revealed details of a 'strange undercarriage,' the witnesses said.

"Another UFO sighting was reported by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Steckling, of Washington. They had just left a department store at 11th and F-sts nw, on March 28, at 3.20 p.m., when they said they saw a silvery object with a 'three ball landing gear' plainly visible. The Steckings estimated the UFO was at a height of about 12,000 feet. They said it was flying very rapidly, paused momentarily, and darted out of sight in seconds.

"The sightings, originally reported by '*The Little Listening Post*', a Washington UFO publication, were checked by the *News*."

Las Vegas Mystery

We are indebted to Mr. James T. Wardle for sending us the following account from the *Salt Lake Tribune*, April 30: "Three Californians travelling by car to Las Vegas reported sighting on Thursday a mysterious dome shaped object the size of an airship which disappeared while their attention was momentarily diverted from it. Mr. and Mrs. Gus Biggs and Mrs. Lorene Ayres, all of Fontana, California, told authorities they had spotted the object crouched on a hilltop just off U.S. Highway 91, some 10 miles west of Baker, Calif.

"Mrs. Gloria Biggs was quoted as saying: 'At first we thought it was a water tower, but as we got closer we knew it was something we'd never seen before.'

"She said she, her husband and her mother, Mrs. Ayres, watched the smooth, brownish dome-shaped object for about five or six minutes while their car was moving. She said the object disappeared from its hilltop perch when they looked away for a moment. Mrs. Biggs said the only subsequent sign of the object's presence on the hilltop was a large depression in the ground.

"A similarly shaped unidentified flying object was spotted last Friday by a policeman in Socorro, N.M.

"Thursdays' sighting by the Biggs family was within the confines of the U.S. Army's coming "desert strike" maneuvers, planned for May 17-30."

Burlington sighting

The Wyoming *Sheridan Press* carried the following report in its June 10 issue: "A search of a deserted grazing area near Burlington on Tuesday produced no signs of a strange vehicle that several persons had seen, Big Horn County Sheriff L. C. Brinkerhoff said. Brinkerhoff was investigating the sighting which was reported by two Burlington youths on Sunday

and again by Brinkerhoff and three other men on Monday night.

"The boys, Gary Brown and Richard Briggs, told Brinkerhoff on Sunday they had seen three objects one of which appeared to be in trouble, while they were searching for cows in the deserted pasture. Brinkerhoff said he and the three Basin men accompanied the youths to the scene on Monday. 'We saw something very strange, but I couldn't say what it was,' he said.

"Harvey Baliso, a Basin publisher, said when a strong spotlight was turned on the object a strange bluish green light came from it, filling the sheriff's car with light. He said the light was 10 to 15 times stronger than the aircraft landing light Brinkerhoff uses for a spotlight.

"Brinkerhoff said they left when the light went off and stayed off. 'There was no sign of anything today' (June 9), Brinkerhoff said, 'but there definitely was something there'.

"Brinkerhoff said when they arrived at the scene on Monday night the object was going across the grazing land. He said his own car was going 60 miles per hour on the highway.

" 'No wheeled vehicle could have gone across the muddy ground that fast,' he said.

"The youths said they heard a shrill sound from the object on Sunday, but the noise wasn't repeated on Monday."

Object buzzes car

We are indebted to Mrs. Charlotte for the following cutting from the July 3 issue of the North Carolina *Charlotte News*: "Beauford E. Parham, a sales executive from nearby Wellford, said on Thursday his car was buzzed earlier this week in Georgia by an unidentified flying object.

"Parham said the incident occurred on Monday night (June 29) while he was driving near Lavonia in northwestern Georgia. He said a circular object, which made a hissing sound, made two passes at his car but flew away when he pulled off the road and turned off his lights.

" 'I was travelling about 65 or 70 miles per hour,' Parham said. 'But when the object approached, the car's engine began to slow down.'

"He described the flying object as about the length of his car top and six feet high. He said its bottom portion was whirling in one direction and the upper part in the opposite direction and it resembled a giant top.

"Parham said the object gave off heat and burned his arm. He said it also left behind an odour like embalming fluid and had fin-like attachments around its outer edges.

"Albert Myrick, a Federal Aviation Agency employee at the Anderson, S. C. Airport, said on Thursday night he and other FFA personnel looked over Parham's car and relayed his story to Warner Robbins Air Force Base in Georgia.

"Myrick said he was naturally sceptical of all such reports, but added that Parham 'gave a vivid account and I believe he really thought he saw something. He appeared to be on the level'.

"Myrick said the top of Parham's late model car was covered with oily spots which Parham thought may have been fuel from the flying object.

"A Geiger counter test did not indicate the car had come in contact with a radioactive object, Meyrick said."

Green River, Wyoming, saucer

From the *Desert News*, May 2 issue:

"Two families peered into the sky here on Thursday evening while a 'silvery, shining, round' object hovered high over their heads for about 30 minutes.

" 'We saw something—whether it was a flying saucer, we don't know,' said Mrs. James Pace, 115 Keith Dr. 'But we're not imaginative people.'

"Mrs. Pace told the *Desert News* that she, her husband and two of her children were on the front lawn with neighbour family, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cameron, about 7 p.m. They were watching two aeroplanes—a commercial craft and a smaller private plane—cross paths in the sky, when the children, Suzanne Pace, 6; Michael Pace, 5, and Kevin Cameron, 5, pointed higher in the sky and shouted 'There's another flying saucer, just like the one we saw yesterday in school.'

"Mrs. Pace had dismissed her children's stories of flying saucers over the schoolyard the day before as creations of 'kid's imaginations.'

"Mr. Pace focused binoculars on the object in the sky and viewed a 'shining, round light,' standing on its edge like a silver dollar. It was 'very high in the sky,' Mrs. Pace said.

"The Paces theorized the shiny effect was merely a reflection of the sun's light. After the Paces and Camerons viewed the object, which appeared to be hovering, for about one half hour, dark storm clouds obscured it.

" 'The day before when the kids were talking about saucers, I thought they were just making it up,' Mrs. Pace said. 'Then I read in the *Desert News* of reported saucer sightings. I started questioning my children a little closer.'

"Mrs. Pace found that children throughout the neighbourhood and those attending nearby Roosevelt Elementary School had reported viewing unidentified flying objects on Thursday.

"Meanwhile, in Salt Lake Valley, a twelve year old boy said on Friday he saw an object 'hover for a minute or two' in the sky, then dart behind Mt. Olympus.

"Robin Leon Beglarian, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nicola Beglarian, 2902 Florence Cir. (2980 East), said the incident happened about 4.30 p.m. The object hovered about 2,000 feet above Mt. Olympus before disappearing."

(Credit to Mr. James T. Wardle).

Down on the farm

We are indebted to Mr. W. T. Sherwood for having sent us the following report taken from the Binghamton (N.Y.) newspaper, issue of May 9. The REVIEW has asked for the exact title of the paper. The account reads as follows: "A dairy farmers' report of talking with two Martians who landed in one of his fields in a spacecraft has Tioga County aroused with curiosity.

"The report has brought inquiries by an official agency and has been a frequent topic of conversation in recent days in Owego's downtown streets.

"The Tioga County Sheriff's Department interviewed the farmer, Gary T. Wilcox of Davis Hollow Road, and took a statement from him. Also, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been notified.

"Mr Wilcox, 27, who operates a 300 acre dairy farm a few miles northeast of Newark Valley, said that a 'federal representative' also has been to see him about what happened in a sec-

luded spot on his farm. Mr. Wilcox initially rebuffed a reporter's attempts to interview him about the incident, but finally gave this account of what happened:

"On the morning of April 24, Mr. Wilcox, who works the farm alone, was spreading manure in an open field. Shortly before 10 o'clock, he decided to check a V-shaped field on another part of the farm that is almost completely surrounded by woods. He wanted to see whether ground conditions would permit plowing.

"As he approached the field, which is about a mile from his dairy barn, he saw a shiny object that he at first thought was a discarded refrigerator that had been in the field for some time. He realized that the shiny object was not the old refrigerator as he drew nearer. His next thought was that it was a wing tank or some other part of an aeroplane that had fallen into the field. The object was shiny and looked somewhat like aluminium. But it looked as if it would be more durable than aluminium and seemed to have metallic characteristics different from any he had ever seen before.

"The object was about 20 feet long and 16 feet wide and was shaped like an egg. He touched it and felt no heat.

"He observed no door or escape hatch, but two human-like men suddenly appeared. They were about four feet tall, wore clothing that appeared to have no seams and had on what appeared to be a headdress with a full-face hood. He could not distinguish any facial features because of the face hoods. They appeared to have arms and legs, but he could not tell whether they had feet and toes.

" 'Do not be alarmed, we have talked to people before. We are from what you people refer to as planet Mars,' one of the figures said in smooth English.

"He thought this surely must be some kind of gag somebody was playing on him, but the conversation continued. One of the creatures stood about five feet from him and the other stood farther back, close to the spacecraft. Their voices seemed to come from their bodies rather than from the headdress-covered heads.

" 'They were interested in organic material such as fertilizer,' Mr. Wilcox recalled.

"They expressed considerable interest in why he was spreading manure and in the various uses of fertilizers.

"The Martians explained that they grew food in the atmosphere, but changes in the universe were expected to create problems. They said they were visiting earth to obtain information about organic material.

"They appeared to know little about organic material and their questions were like those a child would ask. Each one carried a tray filled with soil, apparently taken from the field.

" 'When they talked about space or the ship, I had difficulty in understanding their explanations,' Mr. Wilcox said.

" 'They said they can only travel to this planet every two years and they are presently using the Western Hemisphere.'

"The Martians said they land only during daylight hours because their ship is less readily visible in daylight. They expressed surprise that he had seen the craft.

"The two figures said astronauts from earth would not be successful in space travel. Astronauts travelling in outer space would die after being in space a year because their bodies are not adaptable to such conditions, they said.

"The figures asked whether he had any organic material. He said yes, and then was asked if they might have some. He started to leave to get a bag of fertilizer for them. As he did so, the spacecraft took off. The noise the spacecraft made was like an automobile idling. There was no turbulence, exhaust of fire or raising of dust.

" 'Within seconds the craft was out of sight,' Mr. Wilcox said.

"He returned to the barn, picked up a bag of fertilizer and took it to the spot in the field where the Martians had been. He left the bag of fertilizer there. It was gone when he returned the next day."

AUSTRALIA

Hallam flying saucer

Clive Matthews contributed an article in the Mountain District and Knox Shire *Free Press* in its issue of June 17 concerning a UFO incident in the area. The account was as follows: "Four people from Belgrave South and Narre Warren North claim to have seen a flying saucer hovering over Hallam last Friday. The people were in two separate parties, but saw the object at the same time.

"This is the second 'flying saucer' report in the Dandenongs in recent years. A few years ago, a Patch woman reported having seen a long cigar-like object hovering in fog not far from her house.

"The four young people were travelling home to Belgrave South from Dandenong. They saw the object about 5.55 p.m. They were in two parties in separate cars.

"Robert Preston, 19, of Hallam Road, South Belgrave, was the driver of the first car. With him were Janette Stephenson, 17, of Emerald Road, Narre Warren North, and Dorothy Murfitt, 17, of Courtney's Road, South Belgrave.

"Preston, a mechanic with Repco in Dandenong, said: 'We were coming from Dandenong towards Hallam, along the highway, about 5.55 p.m., when we saw this red light in the sky. We didn't take much notice at first but when it remained stationary we pulled over and watched it for four or five minutes. Suddenly it took off like a flash across the sky, but when Dorothy wound the window down we couldn't hear any noise.'

" 'It had a bright red light in the front and a dim white light on the rear. Neither of them were flashing. It was about 800 feet up. It was the same size as a normal plane but it was going faster than any plane and didn't make any noise at all.'

" 'It went towards Melbourne. It moved from west to east, then gradually turned south.'

" 'It looked like a flat line when we saw it silhouetted against the skyline,' he added.

"Janette Stephenson, a stenographer with C. L. Godfrey, of Dandenong, said, 'As we were coming from Dandenong to Hallam there appeared to be a red light in the sky. I thought at first it was a helicopter hovering in the sky. As we turned into Hallam Road it came down towards us then passed in front of us.' As it passed in front of us it appeared to be dome-shaped and travelling terribly quickly but when we wound the window down we couldn't hear a thing.'

" 'At its nearest point it was about 800 feet away. It looked like a dinner plate turned upside down on a table but the bottom was slightly domed, too,' Janette said.

"Both agreed that they had never before seen anything moving in the sky at a similar speed.

"Arthur Gill, 21, a mechanic with Alan Coffey Motors in Ferntree Gully was the driver of the second car. He said he could not remember seeing anything but his passenger, Helen Stewart, 20, of Wellington Road, Clematis, saw the light.

"Helen said 'At first I thought it was a light on a tower or something but when we got closer we could see there was nothing underneath it.'

" 'I thought it was extraordinary because it was so bright and so low, much too low for an aeroplane.'

"*Free Press* contacted both Morrabbin and Melbourne Airports but both said they knew nothing about it. An official at Moorabbin airport said that the only red light on an aircraft that would remain unblinking would be a plane's landing gear but this would remain on only for six or seven seconds."

(Credit to Mrs. Sylvia Sutton of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society)

Boy's eerie experience

Mrs. Sylvia Sutton has kindly sent the REVIEW this cutting from the *Reporter* for June 24: " Three paper boys from North Box Hill were among the early-risers who saw the eerie and as yet unexplained lights in the sky early on Friday morning (June 19). The boys were Terry Crowe, 14, his brother James, 10, and Paul Hazlewood, 12, all of Relowe Crescent.

"The phenomenon that lit up the sky and turned night to day was reported by many people from Woomera to Melbourne. The object that flashed across the sky and according to one report struck the ground near Nhill has not been recovered or identified. Some suggest it was a meteorite, others that it was part of a satellite.

"The local boys did not see any definite object. Ten-year-old James said: 'I was standing in the shed doorway looking up at the sky and suddenly I saw this big green light and it changed from green to red. My brother saw the whole shed change its colours. Then he looked at me and saw all my face go green, then red. Then he saw it too.'

"The boys were about to leave for their morning paper round. They left at once but as soon as they arrived told Mr. Chandler, newsagent at the Mont Albert terminus of their experience.

"Paul Hazlewood, of 21 Relowe Cres., was leaving for his paper round about the same time—5 a.m.—and when the boys met at the newsagents they found he too had seen the strange lights. But Paul saw a different light —a long line of yellow lights—and in a different spot.

"Mrs. Crowe first heard of their experience when the boys came home about 7 o'clock. She said they were startled. It had been rather frightening especially the changing colours of the boy's face.

"The best part of it for Jim seemed to be the news he had to take to his teacher at school. He is a pupil at Our Holy Redeemer, Surrey Hills, and Terence is at St. Leo's."

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Ball of fire

From the Salisbury *Rhodesia Herald*, June 2:

"What was the mystery 'ball of fire' seen spiralling down over the outskirts of Salisbury during the lunch hour yesterday? Mr. J. M. Lowe, a Mount Pleasant garage proprietor said he saw the 'ball of fire' outlined against dark cloud.

" 'It descended slowly and left a trail of smoke.'

"It was also seen shortly after noon by a person in Second Street. Both witnesses said the object was some distance away in a north-easterly direction.

"A Department of Civil Aviation spokesman said: 'It was not an aircraft. None was in the vicinity at the time.'

"A Meteorological Office spokesman said: 'It is extremely unlikely that one of our hydrogen balloons would burn out like that. It may well have been a meteor,' he added."

SWEDEN

Mystery submarine

The London *Daily Telegraph*, reporting from Stockholm, carried the following report in its issue of May 21:

"A foreign submarine was observed in Swedish territorial waters off the west coast last Sunday night, the Swedish Defence Staff announced to-day. The submarine vanished after coming under direct observation by a Swedish rescue ship.

"The Swedish vessel had put to sea after receiving reports of red distress rockets having been fired. It is believed that the rockets were discharged by the foreign submarine."

(continued from Page 7)

very brilliant and gave off "strange glares". The time was 9.50 p.m. and the object was seen by the Captain and several of the crew. When the object hit the water an explosion was heard, then the sea where the object fell became brilliantly coloured. After the colours subsided the sea became very disturbed with a "boiling motion", which continued for some time.

It is not known whether or not the object was in trouble in this incident but there is a similarity between the fore-going sighting and the disc which fell into the Peropava River.

MAILBAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

A peculiar cloud

Sir,—I recently read an account of an UFO, seen over Devon in 1892. This appeared in an article in the *Western Morning News* of August 31, 1892. It was also reported in the *Transactions of the Devon Association;* I quote from the latter:

"I witnessed some curious phenomena on Sunday evening last (21st August, 1892) while walking along the road at about 6.10, between Highweek and Bradley Woods. A long streaky dark cloud, resembling smoke, having its base in the town of Newton Abbot, suddenly shot upwards, towards and nearly reaching the zenith, its upper end inclining outwards to the right. To the left of this was another cloud exactly corresponding, except that the upper end inclined outwards to the left, the two objects being of a fan shape. Inside the smoky streak, both right and left, was lined with a white, bright, phosphorescent light, in breadth and height identical with each other. This continued about ten minutes, when the dark streak suddenly became as luminous as the lighter one, and I could distinguish the small fine particles of matter, whatever they were composed of, intermingling with each other, until they became one luminous body. In another ten minutes they reverted again to their original form; viz. a smoky streak outside and a luminous streak inside; then a third streak formed to the left of the left one.

"Subsequently the three streaks became one perfect mass of luminous clouds, still preserving the fan-shape and inclining upwards, but with diminished height, and then ultimately disappeared altogether. My back was towards the setting sun, consequently the phenomena would be about east by south east. On turning round, and looking in a westerly direction, I observed a number of long streaky clouds, which looked as if they had been shot out of a cannon, terminating at the end with a round ball. The estuary and valley of the Teign was covered with fog at the time, and the horizon in an easterly and north easterly direction was lined with dark angry clouds."

The above description seems to suggest that this was a very peculiar "cloud" indeed. I would be very interested to know what the "Lenticular Cloud" enthusiasts have to say about this phenomena.—D. J. Ward, "Beccles", Burrator Road, Dousland, Nr. Yelverton, Devon.

Fatima

Sir,—If a flying saucer is the explanation of the Fatima phenomenon, might I suggest that far from the three children attempting to assimilate the "miracle" into their religious teachings —a most unlikely theory—is it not more probable that the intelligences behind the UFOs always speak in terms that will be readily acceptable to those who would otherwise be incredulous. In other words, they suit their message to their audience: otherwise they would either be met with incredulity or the recipients would be too frightened to pass the message on.

Many people have distrusted Adamski because of the cosmic philosophy which he had been peddling for many years before his first alleged contact. But this need not be a cause for suspicion. It might explain why he has been so eager to proclaim his experience as he sees in it a justification for his already established beliefs. One of the arts of propaganda is to insinuate a new belief into an old one. Might I suggest that the truth of the matter is known at the Vatican and that is why Fatima does not seem to have been accepted as a miracle. If the third message, not yet made public, is to the effect that intelligences exist on other planets, the Pope might well know the answer to Fatima, but he or his predecessors may have decided that the world is not yet ready for the news.
—Arthur Lidstone, London, N.W.11.

Saucer photographs

Sir,—In the May-June issue of the REVIEW your contributor Peter F. Sharp states: "I think readers (of Max B. Miller's book *Flying Saucers*) will see that the comparison shows Potter's object more closely resembles the Passaic disc than it does Adamski's saucer." But what does this prove? Resemblances must be, to some extent, a matter of opinion, but broadly speaking this observation merely goes to support the Adamski photograph. The Passaic saucer, Potter's and Darbishire's all bear a very strong family likeness, to say the least, to Adamski's and this must tend to confirm your belief that even if faked, or even if not actually photographed by Adamski, the object shown in the photograph does indeed disclose what one particular type of UFO looks like at close quarters. And if Adamski faked the object he must have based his deception on a type of craft reliably reported and occasionally photographed by others.—L. Cardew, Douglas, Isle of Man.

What the Soviets are Saying

by Gordon W. Creighton

SOVIET newspapers and journals continue to devote much attention to Space matters, but for a long time past nothing particularly worth recording has been noticed. However, the immensely influential trade-union journal *Trud* had a long and very interesting article in its issue of May 22, 1964, with the title "Voices of Other Worlds". The author is M. Klyatkovo, M.SC., of the very important P. K. Shternberg State Institute of Astronomy. *Trud* has a circulation of many millions among the Party rank and file, and the appearance of such an article in this paper is probably as significant as anything that we have yet seen in the Soviet press.

The kernel of what Dr. Klyatkovo says can be resumed as follows:

The Human Race has long dreamed of establishing liaison with the inhabitants of other worlds. This problem has now ceased to pertain to the realm of the fantastic, and has entered the realm of reality. It has become a subject for serious scientific research.

Materialistic Marxist Science believes that extraterrestrial civilisations exist. Broadly speaking, these will include three categories of beings, all of them in advance of us. They will be:

(1) Civilisations already possessing interplanetary communications, within the bounds of their own solar systems.

(3) Civilisations possessing such communication between solar systems within the same Galaxy.

(3) Civilisations possessing such communication between Galaxies.

It is highly possible that such beings of very advanced levels are already sending out radio signals to inform others about themselves, and N. S. Kardashev, Chief Specialist in this field at the Shternberg Institute of Astronomy is at present working out the characteristics that such signals might be expected to possess. Indeed it is possible that we are on the threshold of receiving such messages from extraterrestrial civilizations, and we should not rule out the possibility that the sources of the recently discovered radio-signals emanating from the Constellations of Aries and Pegasus are in fact artificial, and that a detailed study of them will yield proof of this. Clearly the task of establishing the existence of such civilizations will be a very big one. Bearing in mind the fact that these beings will be technologically so far in advance of us, the reception of information from them will have colossal significance, both scientific and practical, for us.

It is amusing to note that Dr. Klyatkovo does not trouble to take into consideration such civilizations as may be merely on a level with us, or inferior to us.

In the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for January–February 1962 I quoted the statement of V. Komarov, one of Russia's leading astronomers: "Present-day science has reached a high level of development. And it will not be at all surprising if, in the near future, we receive most interesting evidence concerning other civilizations in the Universe". In the same article, I also quoted a statement by V. Davydov, Scientific Secretary of the P. K. Shternberg State Institute of Astronomy: "The idea has even been mooted that maybe it would be worthwhile to search for such a rocket from some other world, now flying here in our own solar system".

That is indeed just about as far as any Soviet official has ever gone towards admitting the existence of UFOs, and it must be conceded that it is quite far.

Signals decyphered

Returning again to the question of radio signals, it is worth bearing in mind that about 4 years ago I found an article in either *Pravda* or *Izvestiya* (the two leading Soviet dailies) to the effect that Space signals had already been *decyphered* in the Soviet Union. I regret that I have not yet been able to trace the notes which I made on that article at the time. But there could be no doubt about the wording. "Rasschifrovat" means to decypher, and so far as I know has no other meaning.

All this shows that the Soviets are as interested as ever they were in Space matters and that (most unfortunately) it still looks as though their Government is still the only one that is doing anything at all to prepare its people for the enormous shocks that may shortly be administered to Earth man's conceit.

Adamski's Last Chance

Will the Moon Vindicate Him . . .

by René Fouéré

AMONG those who admit that the flying saucers are piloted devices of extraterrestrial origin there has already been for years past a profound schism. On the one side we find the partisans of Adamski and, on the other, his adversaries. The latter are mainly people of strong scientific education, whereas Adamski admits himself that he is ignorant in matters of science and technology.

For years past a sort of photographic battle has been going on in the specialised journals. In conflicting articles, some authors maintain that the photograph which Adamski claims to have taken of a Venusian saucer is a more or less patent fraud, a more or less clever hoax, while others would stake their reputation in support of the view that it is authentic. If we bear in mind the fact that eyewitnesses who it seems could not possibly have been accomplices of Adamski have photographed or drawn unusual objects very clearly resembling the Adamski saucer, we can admit that the Adamski picture was not a fake. Furthermore, once one believes that the saucers as craft do exist and that they have landed on the Earth and have at times been near to a witness there is nothing absurd in thinking that Adamski might indeed have been close to a UFO and photographed it.

For our part, we think that the indecisive battle raging around this photograph is of only minor importance. If, in fact, the scientific minds favourable to the thesis of the saucers being craft profess the strongest scepticism towards Adamski and even accuse him of deliberate swindling, they do so for reasons of an altogether different kind and of an altogether different importance.

There are some astronomers and some astrophysicists who are convinced that the flying saucers are space-craft piloted by beings from Space, and they have therefore no reason, in principle, to enter into conflict with Adamski. They could even, if it were absolutely necessary, admit—however improbable the thing might seem to them—that Adamski really did make a trip in Space aboard a flying saucer, in the course of which trip he could have seen the surface of the Moon on a large scale. But what they hold to be perfectly unthinkable, and what constitutes the irreconcilable difference between them and Adamski, is the description given us by the latter, through the mouth of one of his companions on the journey, of the hidden face of the Moon. Here is the exact text of Ramu's words, as we find them on page 227 of Adamski's book *Inside the Space-Ships :*

"Now we are approaching the side never seen from the Earth. Look at the surface directly beneath us. See, there are mountains in this region. You can even see snow on the highest peaks among them, and a dense extent of forest on the lowest slopes. On this side of the Moon there are numerous mountains and lakes and rivers. You can see one of the lakes below us. The rivers flow into a large body of water."

Such a description seems absolutely indefensible and absurd. So absurd that, if Adamski really did meet extraterrestrials, one might have thought the latter had deliberately shown him a false picture so that our men of science, reading Adamski's books later, might be convinced of the author's intellectual folly and dishonesty and, at the same time, of the non-existence of extraterrestrial craft.

After all, the extraterrestrials, if they exist, may perhaps not be so keen that we should believe in their existence and in their presence in the skies of our Planet. It is possible that they are not out to draw attention to themselves and that, if they had indeed had dealings with Adamski, they might have been able to condition him psychically in such a manner that, once out of their hands, he would go off and spread incredible fables around the world, fables which would be of such a nature as to remove, in the eyes of serious technical experts, any kind of belief in the flying saucer. It will be noted moreover that Adamski does not claim to have seen the surface of the Moon directly, but only an image of that surface, projected on a screen. This image, the authenticity of which he has accepted, could have been entirely faked, taken from some film designed on purpose to deceive the spectator.

One might have concluded that, if Adamski really were a liar, he was a liar of the most clumsy sort. By letting his fantasy run wild in describing for us Mars, Venus, Mercury or Saturn, he would have gained time for himself, for if it were a matter of those distant bodies, it would have been difficult

to administer a formal refutation of him in any near future. But to claim to inform us about that celestial body that is precisely—as one might put it—beneath the very noses of our telescopes was, from the human point of view, to attack the scientists at the very place where they were best able to defend themselves.

In his book *Life on the Planets* Professor Tocquet has summed up, very successfully, the classic and solid arguments for the almost total absence of an atmosphere on the Moon, which circumstance is in fact—since it prevents the use of parachuted machines in the exploration of the lunar surface—the source of difficulties that have been eloquently illustrated by the mishaps of Ranger VI. Moreover, with an ordinary pair of binoculars of eight or ten magnification, one can clearly see the sharply cut and unusual—not to say indeed cruel—way in which the lunar disc or crescent stands out against the sky. In other words, one sees clearly that there is no atmosphere on the visible face and area of our satellite, and, in the opinion of science, if there is no atmosphere on this side of the lunar orb then there is no reason for imagining that there could be any on the other side of it.

It is true that in the nineteenth century the Danish astronomer Hansen had gone so far as to maintain that "all the air and all the water" of our natural satellite "had been drawn off towards the hidden side" (F. Jackson and P. Moore, *Is the Universe Habitable?* p. 107). But this strange theory, which one might call "pre-Adamskian", had never been taken seriously, even during the lifetime of its author and, as Jackson and Moore point out, the photos taken in October 1959 by Lunik III seem to show clearly enough that the hidden face of the Moon presents just as "hostile and bare" an aspect as the visible face does.

Personally we are inclined to think that the two faces of the Moon have the same essential character, but, in order to widen the discussion and to remind ourselves that our imagination—far too much conditioned by our mental attitudes, we are going to describe what, to our way of seeing things, could be Adamski's final chance of being proved right.

When, a good many years ago, we read the arguments used by the orthodox physicists of those days against the possibility of the existence of flying saucers, we were struck when we saw that those arguments still rested implicitly upon the hypothesis that the flying saucers were nevertheless real solid objects. Now, a stone thrown at supersonic speed in a dense atmospheric medium inevitably produces a ballistic wave. Therefore, said the scientists, if a saucer has a supersonic speed, it ought to produce a shock wave, and yet we hear nothing. Unwittingly, the scientists were treating the saucers as though they were meteors, that is to say, precisely as something that they weren't. Plantier was to show that, if certain physical conditions were brought about, conditions which are not in themselves absurd even if they seem impracticable to us as regards the immediate future, then a flying saucer machine would be able to exceed the speed of sound in the lower atmosphere without causing a bang.

Now, what happens in the case of the Moon? In so far as we can believe our own eyes, equipped with telescopes and with our human reason, there is no atmosphere, or there are only infinitely small traces of atmosphere, on the side of the Moon facing us and on the circumference of that side. In these conditions, there is no natural reason for supposing that there could be, on the face of the Moon that is hidden from us, any atmosphere worth mentioning, and, if there is no atmosphere on that hidden face then any water that might trickle out from the surface—if by any chance it contained any—would be instantly frozen by the surrounding cold or immediately volatilized into the voids of Space. Adieu then to the lakes, river, forest vegetation and snowy peaks glimpsed by Adamski!

But we said *intentionally* that there was no *natural* reason for supposing that an atmosphere could exist on the invisible side of the Moon. That does not prevent us from thinking—if we want to think it out to the end, and make allowance for all the possibilities—that there could be an atmosphere there for *non-natural* reasons. What does this mean?

It means this—that we are not sure, after all, that the Moon is not inhabited—doubtless not by native Selenites, but perhaps by beings from Space who could have undertaken the colonization of the Moon long before us. Strange lights, which could be from gigantic flames, have recently been observed (see *Science et Vie* for April 1964, page 63, and *Planete* No. 16, page 144) in the region of the amphitheatre of Aristaschus, and the American astrophysicist Carl Sagan has gone so far as to consider that these lights could have been caused by the activity of extraterrestrial astronauts long ago installed on our satellite. Moreover, it will be noted that, according to the *Daily Telegraph*, as quoted by the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW (issue of May–June, 1964), Dr. Rakas of the Lowell Observatory near Flagstaff, Arizona, has reported that something was visible near the impact zone of Ranger VI about 90 seconds *before* it hit the surface of the Moon. Dr. Rakes said that, using a large telescope, he saw a small flash 50 or 60 miles from the point where it struck.

Let us admit for a moment that Carl Sagan's

hypothesis—a bold one but in no way absurd—has in fact come about, and that the present colonists on the Moon are beings who have a technical lead over us of several centuries or of several millennia, and consequently possess means which are for us literally unimaginable.

How do we visualise, already now, our own accommodation on the Moon? We consider that the terrestial colonists will live there in a conditioned atmosphere, under domes. Will they not soon find this kind of existence, this close confinement, terribly disagreeable and limited? If it had to last for centuries, won't they seek to replace it by a different and pleasanter form of existence?

Now, what could we foresee in that direction? In his book *Invisible Walls*, Jacques Bergier thought that, in the near future, science would be able to create energy domes that no projectile could penetrate. Would it then be inconceivable that we might be able to build fields of energy that would prevent the passage of any molecule from the inside to the outside? Are there not already "magnetic bottles" in which we know how to confine plasma?

Let us extrapolate a little. If the extraterrestrial—and hypothetical—colonists on the Moon were technically very superior to us, why should they not be able to replace their crampled bubble-houses, such as we have been imagining, by a gigantic dome of energy that would cover almost the entire hidden face of the Moon or at least an extensive region of it, and in which an atmosphere, chemically created by them, would remain captive? Then, without any absurdity of logic or physical impossibility, by the mere magic of a superior technology, manipulated by intelligent beings, there could be, on the invisible side of our satellite, a gigantic atmospheric bubble, within which lakes could be created, rivers made to flow, and snow made to fall. If this has not been accomplished on the Moon by others before us, it is a grandiose dream that our own future technology will one day be interested to pursue and bring into being. We could begin thinking about it now.

One might wonder: Why create an atmospheric bubble rather than regenerate a whole atmosphere? It is possible that the first solution would be more economical that the second, if it is a question of colonization limited to one particular region of the Moon's surface, and it would moreover permit those who were adopting it to conceal their presence and their works from terrestrial observers so long as the latter remained riveted by gravity to the soil of their own planet or were incapable of launching exploratory space-craft. Of course the atmospheric bubble would be more fragile than a complete atmosphere, since a power breakdown could destroy its invisible wall. But by multiplying the sources of energy and by taking the obvious precautions, it could be given an entirely reliable solidity.

The objection will be raised that the hypothesis established by us, while not exactly impossible, is nevertheless fantastically improbable. To that we shall reply that the existence of human beings on this planet of ours seems to be itself a wildly improbable occurrence, even though, in retrospect, it may seem natural to us. It is true that, morphologically, our body is numbered within the framework of the terrestrial species, and can pass muster as a possible end-result of the succession in time of organized forms, but our behaviour is, from the zoological point of view, completely aberrant. Can one imagine a chimpanzee squatting down and reading a book? Chesterton remarked, with an admirable touch of humour, that if the Evolution theorist has managed to find "a rock on which a man has drawn a reindeer", he would have to "descend quite a way further down before he found a rock on which a reindeer had drawn a man".

Whether or not the Moon be inhabited, at the present moment, by extraterrestrials, and whether or not there are bodies of water on its invisible face, these daring speculations are interesting inasmuch as they remind us that, wherever an intelligence can intervene (and intelligences could well be concealed in unsuspected places) it is rash to cry "impossible", for we are always liable to find the facts dealing us a snub that is as unforeseen as it is stinging. Such is the profound lesson that emerges from these remarks of mine which—although highly improbable—are neither logically nor physically absurd, and this lesson is perhaps, in the final count, of far greater importance for our minds than the fact of knowing whether, in the ultimate analysis, Adamski will be proved right or wrong.

(By a coincidence, the August, 1964, issue of *Fate* Magazine, English Edition, contains an article by Gordon H. Evans on three Martian mysteries. The third relates to the shape of Mars which appears to be much more bulged around the centre than its satellite orbit indicates. Professor Ernst J. Opik, an Estonian astronomer who has worked for many years at the Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland has offered a theory to explain the apparent discrepancy in terms of an artificial roof or dome which would be used to hold the lighter gases in its atmosphere and so overcome the problem of insufficient gravity.—Editor.)

Arthur Henderson, M.P. asks a question . . .

Another unsatisfactory reply

THE following report is taken from *Hansard*, issue of July 15:

"Unidentified Flying Objects

"47. Mr. A. Henderson asked the Secretary of State for Defence to what extent there is co-operation between the Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force with a view to ascertaining the facts relating to flying saucers or other unidentified flying objects; and what information is now available to his department on this matter.

"Mr. H. Fraser: We are generally aware of the experience of the United States Air Force. Some 90 per cent. of the sightings investigated by my Department have had a perfectly rational explanation. In the remaining 10 per cent. of cases, the information available was insufficient to support an adequate inquiry. We have discovered no evidence of the existence of so-called flying saucers."

The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW does not know whether Mr. Arthur Henderson was satisfied with the reply given, but anyone who has studied the subject of UFOs with any serious attention will realise that without actually lying the Secretary of State for Defence has managed to give a totally misleading picture of the whole situation. Mr. Fraser's reply suggests his Department assiduously investigates flying saucer reports and then, in 90 per cent. of the cases, is able to produce a "perfectly rational" explanation. Readers of this REVIEW will know that, in the first place, those explanations which have been offered have mostly been irrational in that they are completely at variance with the evidence or, at least, ignore that part of it which is in conflict with the "perfectly rational" explanation.

In this respect alone the reply given by Mr. Fraser is unsatisfactory enough, but an even more damaging accusation is that in nine out of ten cases known to the public, the Ministry of Defence does not in fact investigate at all but offers its "perfectly rational" explanations without even interviewing the witnesses of the alleged incidents. To say therefore that 90 per cent. of the sightings can be explained in this manner is quite untrue and constitutes a classic example of the statistical method of hoodwinking the uninformed. A reader of this REVIEW was recently told that the Ministry of Defence does not investigate saucer incidents unless invited to. This hedging, however, just will not do: even if an incident has not been investigated this has not, in the past, prevented the Ministry from providing a "perfectly rational" explanation even if it makes complete nonsense of all the evidence that was adduced.

Even if Members of Parliament, with some notable exceptions, are satisfied with these sort

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. . . about FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Until the subject becomes more orthodox it is only by word of mouth recommendation that we can hope to maintain and to increase our circulation.

of replies, the public at large is beginning to realise that the Government is being less than frank about the subject of UFOs. At last, it has been possible to get into the public print criticising the evasions and the downright lies of the Defence Ministry. The Editor of this REVIEW contributed a series of articles to the *Kensington News* earlier this year pinpointing the errors committed by the Air Ministry in a number of cases which included the Exeter Airport mystery (1961), the Ronald Wildman sighting (1962), the Aer Lingus incident (1962) and the Cosford Affair (1963). The Charlton Crater mystery of 1963 was also exposed and all readers of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW will recall that the attempt to explain the crater in terms of a meteorite had to be withdrawn by the War Office.

While it is not possible, of course, to tell whether the Ministry of Defence deals with all incidents in this manner—it may be those reports which emanate from pilots are merely pigeon-holed—it is possible to assert confidently that in a vast majority of cases that come into the public domain, either the powers-that-be do not investigate at all and merely invent explanations or, if they do investigate, they distort the truth and even go to the length of silencing any witness who is in the services and therefore subject to their discipline.

Perhaps Mr. Arthur Henderson does not believe in flying saucers and for that reason has been perfectly satisfied with the reply he received. He should, however, reflect that this is not merely a question of belief or disbelief, proof or disproof: it is much more important than that. The issue at stake is whether Mr. Arthur Henderson, as a representative of the people of this country, is being given accurate information on a matter of public concern. This REVIEW can demonstrate that he has not been told the truth and offers to place at his disposal the evidence in its possession. The relevant copies of the *Kensington News* can be sent to him for perusal. They contain a summary of a few only of the more flagrant cases which have been reported in the pages of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. The Ministry of Defence was sent copies of relevant issues of both journals and they have issued no refutation of what amount to grave charges of duplicity. Flight-Lieutenant Henry of the Cosford Affair has not come forward to clear up the mystery: nobody has apologised, or justified, the "car headlight reflections" explanation offered for the Ronald Wildman sighting near Luton, nor, for that matter, has Mr. Wildman's statement been contradicted that nobody from the Air Ministry has ever been near him to investigate.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, if he were to study the allegations printed above would have to ask himself why, if there is no mystery at all, a Government Department should behave in this manner in times of peace. What is it trying to hide? The reality of the flying saucer? If so, why? The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW will suggest an answer to the latter question in its next issue. In the meanwhile, it invites Mr. Arthur Henderson to ponder the former in the light of the evidence available.

PERSONAL COLUMN

AMERICAN SUBSCRIBER WILL TRADE U.F.O. Photographs, Illustrations, Newspaper Clippings, contact Mr. Albert Onori, 84 Summer Av., Newark 4, N.J.

The BRITISH U.F.O. RESEARCH ASSOCIATION comprises the twelve main British UFO societies. Send a stamped addressed envelope for details of membership and journal to: Mrs. A. Lloyd, Hon. Sec., 9 Guilford Street, London, W.C.1.

LONDON LECTURES. Send a S.A.E. for programme to L. Beer, Publicity Officer, British UFO Research Association, 61 Great Cumberland Place, London, W.1.

BOOKS WANTED IN NEW ZEALAND
UFO books and book-lists sought by New Zealand Postal Library. *The Coming of the Spaceships* by Kenneth Arnold, *Behind the Flying Saucers* by Frank Scully. The Apollo Verein 1958, Box 27, Otahuhu, New Zealand.

THE FAVOURED ONES: New angle on orthotenist v. contactee "war." 2/- from J. Goddard, Wynchlands, Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton, Middlesex.

SPACE REVIEW publishes current news on astronomy and space research, including Fortean phenomena. Single copies 2s. 4d. (40c.), post free. From Miss S. Stebbing, 2 Station Road, Frimley, Surrey.

Statement by NICAP Board of Governors

"Although a large percentage of reported UFOs can be explained in terms of conventional objects and events, the residual unexplained cases constitute a separate and important problem. (The word 'UFO' hereafter refers to the residual cases.) These UFOs have proved to be a consistent phenomenon, with significant new reports made each year. A large number of the reports come from reputable and competent observers, honest and intelligent citizens.

"Given the evidence in this report, it is a reasonable hypothesis that the unexplained UFOs are:

*real physical objects, rather than the result of imagination, illusion or delusion;

*artificial, rather than purely natural, such as meteorological and astronomical phenomena;

*under the control (piloted or remote) of living beings.

To date serious scientific attention to UFOs has been limited by several factors including:

the Air Force practice of artificially reducing the significance of the data through the use of counter-to-fact explanations of the sightings and issuance of misleading statistics;

the Air Force practice of implying, through its public relations programme, that all available information has been disseminated and there is no need for further information;

the lack of governmental recognition, through the Congress or the Executive Branch, that a scientific problem exists which ought to be thoroughly probed.

"We believe the following steps should be taken to rectify an unsatisfactory situation:

(1) The evidence in Air Force files (after deletion of legitimate security information such as data concerning the capabilities of radar) should be made freely available to any interested citizens.

(2) There should be a Congressional inquiry into the Air Force's Project Blue Book to establish, (*a*) the amount and kind of UFO information in the files, and whether all significant non-security data has been made public; (*b*) the scientific adequacy of the investigation (whether there has been a consistently objective, scientific study of the evidence, or whether it has been erratic and influenced negatively by high-level policy decisions, lack of funds, or other factors).

"The foremost question which remains is: What are the UFOs? The importance of these objects, if the above hypothesis is correct, is readily apparent. In order to settle this question, we strongly recommend that a much larger scale and more thorough scientific investigation be undertaken."

Joining in these conclusions are NICAP Board Members:

The Rev. Albert H. Baller, Congregational Minister, Clinton, Mass.

Col. J. Bryan, 111, USAF (ret.) Writer, Richmond, Va.

Mr. Frank Edwards, WTTV, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Col. Robert B. Emerson, USAR, Research Chemist, Baton Rouge, La.

Mr. Dewey J. Fournet, former Major, USAF, Baton Rouge, La.

Rear Adm. H. B. Knowles, USN (Ret.), Eliot, Maine.

Professor Charles A. Maney, Department of Physics, Defiance College, Ohio.

From *The U.O Evidence,* published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. See review on page 15.

Postal Delays

The *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* would like to explain that it was not possible to despatch the July/August issue earlier than towards the end of July. Some of our subscribers overlooked the fact that while a postal go-slow had been operating for over a fortnight, there was a complete ban on printed paper rate mail and this was not lifted until several days after the dispute had been settled. We very much regret this delay, but would like to assure our readers that it was completely beyond our power to remedy.

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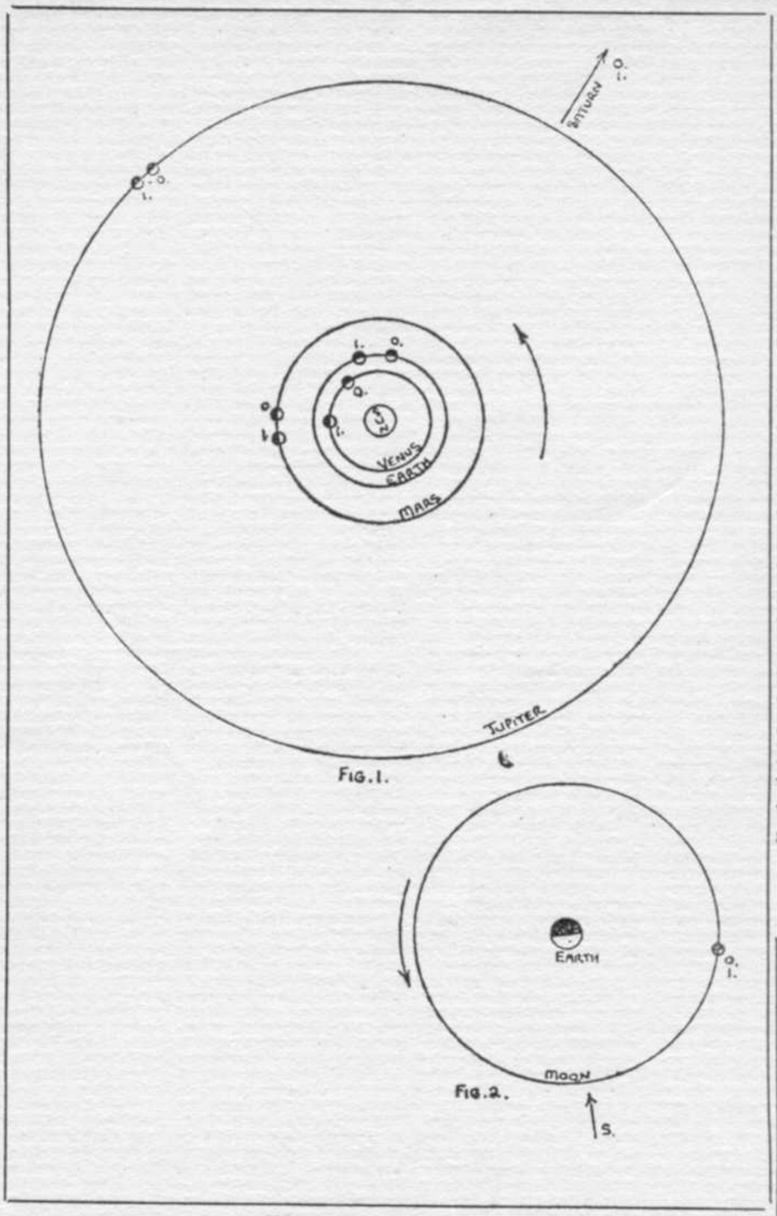
THE MOON AND THE PLANETS

by C. M. Pither



Figs. 1 and 2

1. The Moon and Planets for mid-October, 1964.

CHART DATA

As there is no notable phenomena for the Moon and Planets during the period covered above, I think that at this point it would be a good idea to repeat the "Chart Data" which appeared in the first few issues of this series, as I am sure that by now there will be new readers who would like to have the information.

Figs. 1 and 2.
Both charts are made out for approximately the middle of each month, thus the positions of the Moon and the Planets for the commencement of any month will be a little behind the position for the mid-month; whilst a position for the latter portion will be a little ahead of its mid-month point.

Fig. 1.
Shows part of the Solar System as seen from the North Pole of the system, with the distances between the planetary orbits, but not the planets themselves, drawn to scale. Because of the very large dimension of Saturns orbit it is not shown here, but there is an arrow marked "Saturn" which indicates the general direction of the planet. The curved arrow between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter shows the direction in which all the planets are moving about the Sun. There are two positions for each planet in the respective orbits, "0" × the position for the planet during the first month of the particular issue; and "1" × the position of the planet during the second month of issue. It will be noticed that the planets Jupiter and Saturn move very little in their positions from one issue to the next; the reason being that both these bodies move so very slowly around the Sun. In the case of Saturn the arrow only points to one position, this is because the difference in the two positions for Saturn is very small on this scale.

Fig. 2.
This is on a much larger scale (but not to scale), and shows the Earth-Moon system as seen from the North Pole of same. The curved arrow indicates the direction that the Moon travels around the Earth; whilst the arrow marked "S" shows the direction from which the Sun's light is coming. An important point to remember is that unlike the planets in Fig. 1., which move from "0" to "1" (which in the case of the Earth is 1/12th of its orbit) the Moon travels from "0" once round its orbit before reaching "1". In the event of there only being one position of the Moon for both current months, do not take this as meaning that the Moon has not moved at all; it will simply mean that the phase of the Moon is approximately the same for the middle of both months, and has travelled once around and back to the same position.

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